Australia's Favourite Football Fanzine And Even Bigger On Mother's Day!

goal! Weekly

Vol. 7 No. 12 Monday 9th May 2011

Elastoplast

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Gamba Osaka

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ONE FOR THE ROAD?

PHOTO: SYDNEY LOW

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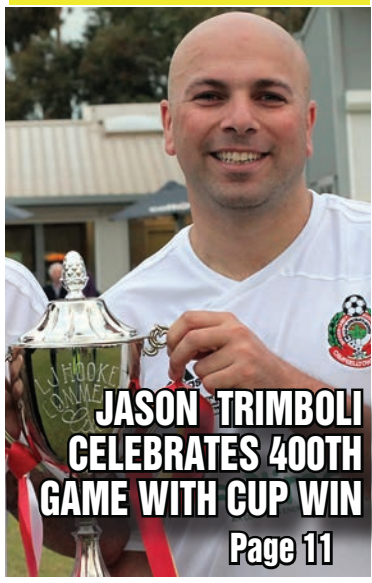

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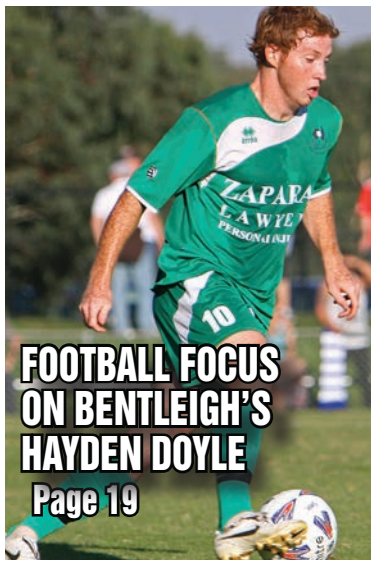

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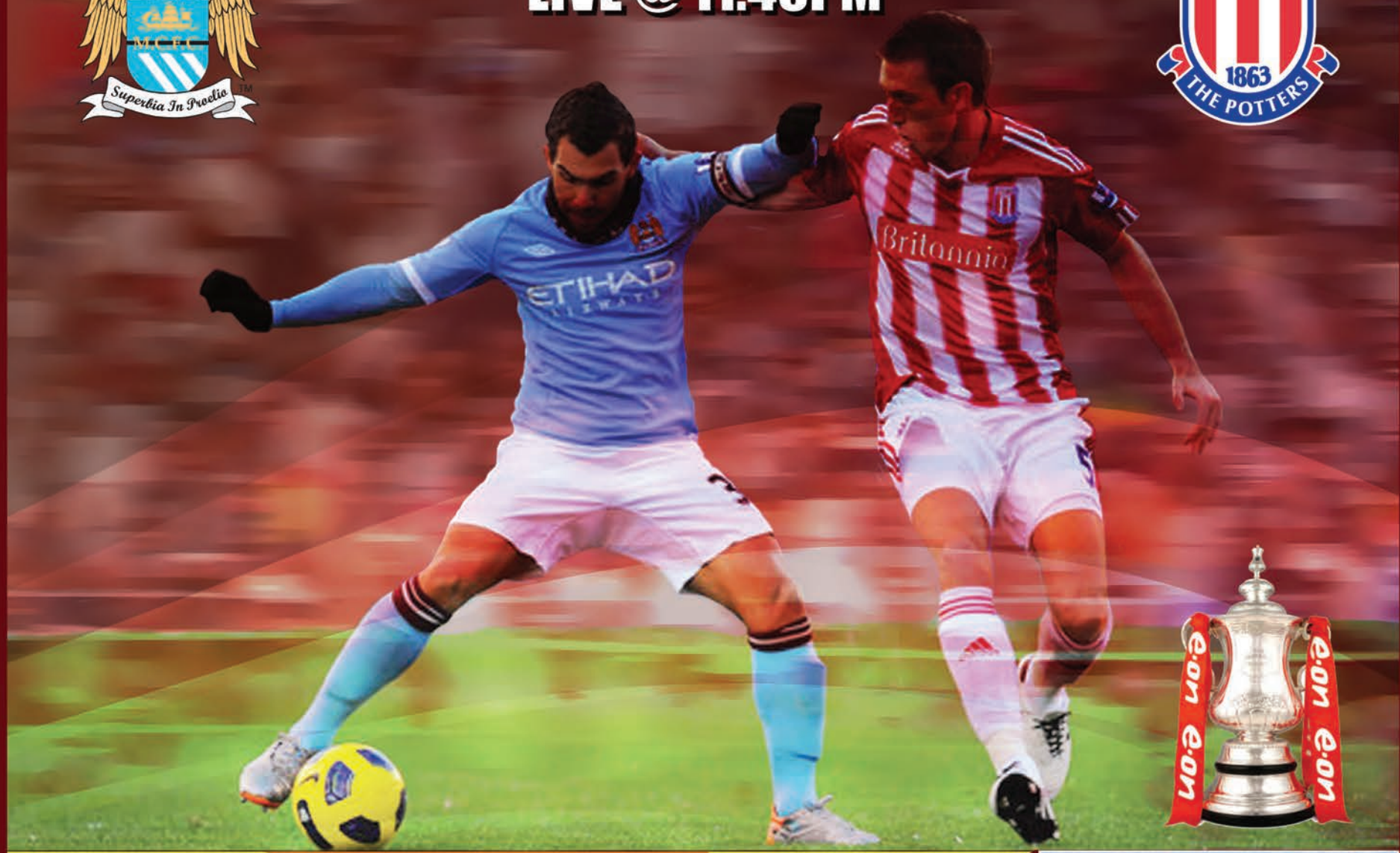

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Last hurrah for Victory and Co?

By David Manuca

Melbourne Victory's hopes of making it to the Round of 16 are hanging by a thread as they managed a 1-1 draw against Gamba Osaka in Melbourne last Wednesday night.

Adrian Leijer gave the Victory and early lead before Soto Nakazawa equalized for Osaka right before half-time.

The draw was the first time Melbourne have picked up points against Gamba in four attempts, and only the second time they've ever picked up points against Japanese opposition.

Adrian Leijer gave Melbourne the best possible start when he leapt highest from a Carlos Hernandez corner thumping his header past Gamba goalkeeper Yosuke Fujigaya.

Soto Nakazawa pulled the Japanese side level right before the break with a well-taken goal, his second of the campaign.

Melbourne though could have had a penalty when 1-0 up but the referee didn't spot a handball by Akira Kaji in the box.

Caretaker coach Mehmet Durakovic could only ponder what could have been but admitted he was happy with his sides performance.

"We were very stiff not to get that penalty. If we get that, then it's 2-0 and the boys are in control," he said.

"But I thought in the second-half, the boys did really, really well.

"Everybody really played well tonight and we were a bit stiff not to come away with the three points."

The draw means Melbourne still sit last in Group E, but are now on five points, two behind Gamba Osaka in second place and one behind Jeju.

Victory travel to Korea to take on Jeju United on Wednesday night needing the three points, and a Tianjin win against Osaka in Osaka, to make it through to the next round for the first time in their short history.

A win will no doubt do interm coach Durakovic's chances of landing the Victory gig full-time no harm, whilst also extending the playing career of Kevin Musact.

If the results don't go their way then one can expect it is officially an end of an era for Muscat, and Durakovic will have to wait and see if the powers that be think he has done enough to stake a claim for the most prized job in Australian club football.

D-Day: Victory needs the combination of an away win against Korea's Jeju United, and for Tianjin Teda to beat Gamba Osaka in order to progress in the Asian Champions League. Photo:DANIEL FLIS

Sydney FC Out

Meanwhile, Sydney FC has been knocked out of the Asian Champions League after they fell to a 3-1 loss against Suwon Bluewings at Suwon's World Cup Stadium last Tuesday night.

The Korean side was far too quick, skilful and intelligent for the Sky Blues as they handed them a footballing lesson they would rather forget.

Tae-Goon Ha gave Suwon the lead in the first half before doubling their advantage five minutes into the second half with a goal from Mato Neretljak.

Bruno Cazarine pulled one back a minute later but Suwon made it 3-1 in the 80th minute through Ki-Hun Yeom sealing the three points and knocking Sydney out of the competition.

Kashima Antlers defeated Shanghai Shenua 2-0 meaning they moved four points above Sydney giving them no chance of making it to the Round of 16.

Sydney manager Viteslav Lavicka admitted Suwon was the better side and they deserved to go through.

"Credit to Suwon, they played well and were strong for the entire game. We did fight and got one goal back but they in the end deserved to win and qualify," Sky Blues coach Vitezslav Lavicka said.

"The Sydney FC team tried hard but Suwon were very good. There defence was big but moved very well and their attack was fast paced. We score a goal to get it back to 2-1 but they scored another."

Sydney FC travel to Japan to play Kashima Antlers on Tuesday afternoon with nothing but pride at stake for the Aussie side.

Kashima will be looking for a win to seal top spot whilst Suwon takes on Shanghai in China with the same ambition.

ACL Details

Group A	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	Pts
1 SEPAHAN (IRN)	5	3	1	1	10	4	6	10
2 AL HILAL (KSA)	5	3	1	1	9	6	3	10
3 AL GHARAFA (QAT)	5	2	1	2	6	5	1	7
4 AL JAZIRA (UAE)	5	0	1	4	6	16	-10	1

11 May AL JAZIRA (UAE) v SEPAHAN (IRN)
11 May AL HILAL (KSA) v AL GHARAFA (QAT)

Group B	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	Pts
1 AL SADD (QAT)	5	2	3	0	7	5	2	9
2 AL NASSR (KSA)	5	2	2	1	9	5	4	8
3 ESTEGHLAL (IRN)	5	1	2	2	9	9	0	5
4 PAKHTAKOR (UZB)	5	1	1	3	7	13	-6	4

11 May PAKHTAKOR (UZB) v AL SADD (QAT)
11 May ESTEGHLAL (IRN) v AL NASSR (KSA)

Group C	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	Pts
1 AL ITTIHAD (KSA)	5	3	1	1	9	4	5	10
2 BUNYODKOR (UZB)	5	2	2	1	7	5	2	8
3 PIROOZI ATH (IRN)	5	1	2	2	6	9	-3	5
4 AL WAHDA (UAE)	5	0	3	2	4	8	-4	3

10 May AL WAHDA (UAE) v PIROOZI ATH (IRN)
10 May AL ITTIHAD (KSA) v B'DKOR (UZB)

Group D	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	Pts
1 ZOBAHAN (IRN)	5	4	1	0	7	2	5	13
2 AL SHABAB (KSA)	5	2	2	1	7	4	3	8
3 EMIRATES (UAE)	5	2	0	3	6	8	-2	6
4 AL RAYYAN (QAT)	5	0	1	4	2	8	-6	1

10 May AL RAYYAN (QAT) v EMIRATES (UAE)
10 May ZOBAHAN (IRN) v AL SHABAB (KSA)

Group E	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	Pts
1 TIANJIN TEDA (CHN)	5	3	1	1	8	4	4	10
2 GAMBA OSAKA (JPN)	5	2	1	2	11	7	4	7
3 JEJU UNITED (KOR)	5	2	0	3	5	9	-4	6
4 MELB VICTORY (AU)	5	1	2	2	6	10	-4	5

11 May GAMBA (JPN) v TIANJIN TEDA (CHN)
11 May JEJU (KOR) v MELB VICTORY (AUS)

Group F	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	Pts
1 GRAMPUS (JPN)	5	3	1	1	8	3	5	10
2 FC SEOUL (KOR)	5	3	1	1	8	3	5	10
3 HANGZHOU (CHN)	5	1	1	3	2	5	-3	4
4 AL AIN (UAE)	5	1	1	3	1	8	-7	4

11 May AL AIN (UAE) v NAGOYA (JPN)
11 May G'TOWN (CHN) v FC SEOUL (KOR)

Group G Team	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	Pts
1 JEONBUK (KOR)	5	4	0	1	8	2	6	12
2 CEREZO OSAKA (JPN)	5	3	0	2	7	4	3	9
3 SHANDONG (CHN)	5	2	1	2	9	4	5	7
4 AREMA MALANG (IDN)	5	0	1	4	2	16	-14	1

10 May JEONBUK (KOR) v MALANG (IDN)
10 May CEREZO (JPN) v SHANDONG (CHN)

Group H Team	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	Pts
1 BLUEWINGS (KOR)	5	2	3	0	9	3	6	9
2 KASHIMA (JPN)	5	2	3	0	7	2	5	9
3 SYDNEY FC (AUS)	5	1	2	2	5	9	-4	5
4 SHANGHAI (CHN)	5	0	2	3	3	10	-7	2

10 May SHANGHAI (CHN) v BLUEWINGS (KOR)
10 May SYDNEY FC (AUS) v ANTLERS (JPN)

Match Day 6 Details

Tuesday 10 May
Kick-off 8.25pm (AEST)
Kashima Antlers (Japan) v Sydney FC
Tokyo National Stadium

Wednesday, May 11
Kick-off 8.35pm (AEST)
Jeju United (Korea) v Melb Victory
Jeju World Cup Stadium, Jeju
Both matches broadcast on Fox Sports.

Socceroos to play Serbia in June

Football Federation Australia (FFA) and the Victorian Government announced that the Qantas Socceroos will host Serbia in an international friendly match at Etihad Stadium in Melbourne on Tuesday 7 June 2011 (7.30pm kick-off).

This will be the second time that the Qantas Socceroos will face Serbia having met for the first time at the 2010 FIFA World Cup when the Qantas Socceroos won 2-1 in the group stage of the tournament.

Serbia is currently 16th in the FIFA World Rankings with the Qantas Socceroos in 20th position.

FFA CEO Ben Buckley said Melbourne was the ideal host of such a high-quality fixture between two Top 20 ranked nations.

"Melbourne football fans are arguably the most passionate in Australia and we are looking for a large crowd to bring a fantastic atmosphere to the match," said Buckley.

"The FIFA World Cup match at Nelspruit Stadium in South Africa last year will be remembered for the exceptional quality of the football and the great tussle between two committed teams and I'm sure that this re-match will be no different."

The Victorian Premier, Ted Baillieu, said the Melbourne was delighted to showcase another major event and its position as the sporting and multicultural capital of Australia.

"Like many European immigrant communities who settled in Victoria in the post war era, the Serbian community has played a big role in making football a national Australian sport," said Mr Baillieu.

"The visit by the Serbian national team will be a chance to celebrate the game's diversity in Australia, but more importantly witness a great contest between two proud football nations."

Victorian Minister for Sport Hugh Delahunty said that the growing on-field success of the Socceroos, the development and launch of the A-League, along with significant community participation had seen Victoria take advantage of our long term partnership with the FFA.

"This partnership will also continue to showcase the Victorian Government's ongoing commitment to football through the continued funding of the Community Football Development Program provided to Football Federation Victoria this year."

Qantas Socceroos Head Coach Holger Osieck is very grateful to be playing against a team of the calibre of Serbia in the lead up to the 2014 FIFA World Cup qualifiers.

"We all saw how Serbia played at last year's World Cup. They are a very decent team, have a good standing in Europe with excellent players playing in top leagues," Osieck said.

"This is definitely an opportunity for us to see where we are at.

"Our last match against Germany was very positive and we will be looking to keep and improve on that, standard in the coming months.

"For us, every match we play in the lead up to September is very important to make sure we are fully prepared for the qualification campaign," concluded Osieck.

Tickets for this match will go on-sale to the Football Family members from 9am (AEST) Friday 6 May until 9pm (AEST) Tuesday 10 May and to the general public from 9am (AEST) Thursday 12 May from Ticketmaster.

The match is proudly supported by the Victoria Government and the Victorian Major Events Corporation.

The match will be broadcast live and exclusive throughout Australia by FOX SPORTS.

Luke Wiltshire shows a clean pair of heels to Milan Ivanovich in the Socceroos' 2-1 win over Serbia at at the World Cup in South Africa last year. Photo: SMP IMAGES

Match Details

Socceroos v Serbia
Etihad Stadium, Melbourne, Victoria
Tuesday, 7 June 2011
Kick-Off time – 7:30pm AEST
Gates Open – 5:30pm AEST

Tickets

Category A - $85 all tickets
Category B - $55 Adult, $30 Concession, $140 Family
Category C - $35 Adult, $20 Concession, $90 Family

Sale Dates

Football Family: 9am (AEST) Friday 6 May, 2011 until 9pm (AEST) Tuesday 10 May 2011

General Public: 9am (AEST) Thursday 12 May 2011

TSIGAN'S TSIGAR

Tsigan Rolls One Up from the Central Coast!

With Mike Lilikakis

TRUE FACE of TERROR!

And so the Western World rejoices in the capture and execution of a man who was directly responsible for the murder of thousands of 'innocents'. yay... The rebuttal from the Fanatical Fan Club (FFC) ie: (El Kite Duh) have jagged up more notches on crotches in the Free World, than in their own backyard. At last count over the past week, since the badabing of O' Salami Bin Laid 'Em, is at 10-1. What I mean is...there Hasbin 10,000 voices in retribution mode in the Wetern world, than in the Backyard mode. How's that work? Well, its simple. IF you protest against antagonistic, Satanic 'New World Order' in Islamic states, its seen by us on our XD 3D HI DEF set top boxes as a VINDICATION of what the US of AYE? has accomplished. Funny since the US of AYE is DIRECTLY responsible for bastardising illegitimate puppet regimes to suit their foreign policies. HANG ON. Am I speaking in tongues here? It may be that MOST of YOU football freaks really don't give a clap of Syphillys about the true state of affairs in world politics, OR, that you are way too comfortable in the run of the mill, day to day affairs of picking up plebs, spraying Lynx and eating a burger from el McCrappo's. You see, only in OUR countries, do we ALLOW the minorities to SPEAK out against TYRANNY and get AWAY with it. For example, if I was flying to London, or Paris, or Athens and did a pitstop in Dubai and shouted, "OSAMAAAAAAAAA!", no one would give a crap, because the populace would assume I was calling out, "BRUUUUUUUCE!" Point B would be that I was in that airport and yelled out, "AMERICAAAAAAAAA!" and get tackled by thirty robust fellas who would then take me downstairs for a poke, and I don't mean TAB dophin/Cleopatra 10c full line winfall. I had a chuckle in 2006, when I rocked up to Heathrow airport (UK), 4 weeks after the London Underground bombings, and when I went to the customs point asked if I could marry a Pommie slapper. Turned out that was a terrorist threat, and MI5 was on hand to cordially escort me downstairs wherein they poked me till i spat out dollar coins.

MOOSE SLIM

Aint a diet, coz I tried it! 'Tis amusing to say the least, that I see an 'anti-poppy' brigade vowing revenge on our ANZACS because we landed at Gallipoli in 1915. FUNNIER STIHL (great chainsaw) is the fact that the Turkish Government celebrate the smae day WITH US! EVEN funnier, since they have a commemorative plaque at ANZAC cove with an inscription by non other than ATATURK himself, recognising the sacrifice made by BOTH warring parties as a commemorative tribute to the diggers who have gone down in history. EVER heard a right wing Pommie Extremist vow revenge on the Western World? NOW THERE IS A WEE IN THE PANTS! Islam a religion of Peace? Make up ur own mind? ***http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=31NHNhTrDMc***

COPPA CAFE

Behold, there be two grand teams playin in the FINAL of the WORLD! Hmmmmmm. Is it a wonder why Real Madrid and Liverpool haven't managed to face off in this same final? Yeah, its because they are crap. YES! BEHOLD MY TWO FAVORITE TEAMS of all time are squaring off, mono e mono, tet a tet, nipple on nipple, fanny on O'maha. WEMBLEY NEVER HAD IT SO GOOOOOD Delta Goodrem. THIS smacks of the Eintracht Frankfurt vs. Real Madrid Final back in 1960 for the ECCC. YEAH! 7-3! Can we hope and pray for a GOALFEST! YEAH! Can we pray for MORE than a frikkin 1-0 or 2-1 slushie? YEAH! PLEEEYUZ! There has NEVER been a Thyme or Oregano since then wherein TWO MEGA CLUBS have had the chance to go toe to toe and SHALLACK JACK BLACK six ways from a McDonalds double Chocolate Sundae. "Get up get busy do it, get up and move your boooody, get up people now get down to it, before you lose your booody." ***http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rX7i6eUCpwM&feature=related***

IF ONLY you can play this track to highlights of the match! WOOOOOOO Rick Flair, WOOOOO!

COUNTER FETE

I wish you could rock up to a place where your kids could do stuffff fun fun fun fun fun fun fun without having to bust ur balls on cash. Oh, this MUST be heaven. i thoroughly enjoy time spent with parents on their parental escapades with their kids, so that their kids may have a FEW moments of pleasure. THIS does NOT APPLY to those whom have a retainer of $400,000 PLUS and their investment properties have $500,000 plus over the 5 fiscal year bracket. NAFF OFF! GO HOME and borrow more money to justify ur exposition on funghal developments in the Third Reich. Seriously, I have better, yea verily, more important things which press my matters of State than what thou prepose. What upsets me is committees that are missssspellled, and then try to justify why. NAFF OFF WILL YA! Can't you tell that I have already wasted enough thyme, sage, oregano, Basil and Fawlty towers therin to last a lifetime. SO, Here is the real deal, and that, without wanton speak of Led Zep, Deep Purple, the invigorations of the Status Quo and side lashings of a Thin Lizzy, who may have hit a Polak at 120 mps, died , and then blamed it on a marsupial which has NO place in the U.K as it is an Australasian, nay, an Australian creature. PHEW...what a ***** and ****!

I WANNA KNOW YA MUGS

I suppose this is where the piece gate serious. Why? Well, to be quite Frank Sinatra, I Wonder Woman if all you machismo Focker Ones dakka dakka dakka with a hit score of 88%.
BUT HERE IS THE TRUTH! This goes out to you moronic, come by the day, I don't give a crap about what happens in the world plebians. WAKE UP! THIS IS UPON OUR DOORS! If you don't step up and SAY SOMETHING, YOUR WORLD SHALL BE RIPPED OUT OF YOUR ARSE or HANDS...or worse thanthat, THINE CHILDREN'S!

Mi Amour; CLAUDIA CORTIZO

She sayeth, "Few are the choices Farmers and Landowners have over mining developments on their property.
The greatest land pillage of Australia and widely kept secret is finally being revealed.
A small desperate community in Tara, Queensland are seeing first hand what the new Labour Government calls progress and clean energy.
The ferocious mining Act can appear at your front door telling you its here to stay and there's not a damn thing you can do about it. Armed with toxic chemicals, bulldozers, escavators and thousands of meters of toxic gas lines you are helpless to resist or complain.

These gas pipes run from our Norther to South states and break of into smaller gas lines each spreading like webs along the ground. Each "well" is pumped full of "fracking fluid" a disgusting cocktail of toxic chemicals, many of which haven't been revealed or approved for human health and safety. These wells are leaking major gas and toxic fumes on peoples lands and ruining their drinking water, their air, their life-stock and their health. Still the government continues drilling Gillard make a 60 billion deal with China for our gas.
And yet even though this process has been banned in France and is being questioned in the US but far too late the companies drill away.
Here in Queensland we risk destroying the greatest underground water system we have,The Great Artesian Basin which is a natural ocuring underground irrigation system that filters water to our streams and aqueafas and has taken millions of years to form and hundreds to reach is destination..
I urge that as Australians we put up a united resistance against this pillage and assault to our national heritage and human rights.
This land is for the people of this nation not for blood sucking, life destroying Gas Companies and not for the pockets of those temporary politicians.

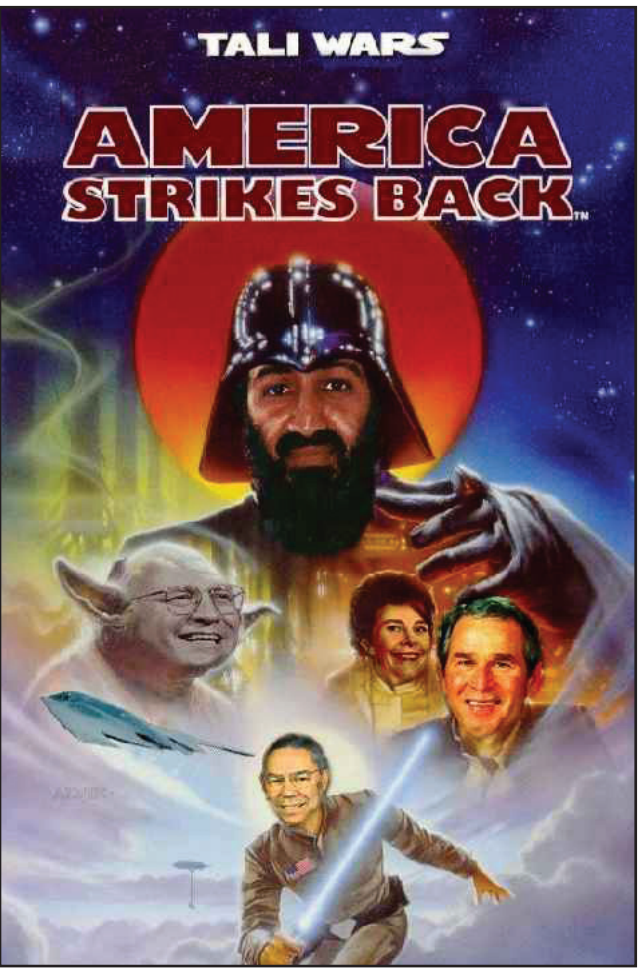
Towns are being seduced by the prospect of an improved economy which are small bribes of incentives to support the Gas Company.
Economic incentives are there to deceive and distract and are temporary at best. If this destructive practised is not stopped immediately, and the 100,000s of polluting wells are drilled into our ground Australia will not recover. This fatal mistake propped up by our "servants of the public" now turned "servants of the corporations" is the rape of our rights to clean food, water and air.
All that is unsustainable will pass and the children of the future generations will pack up and turn their backs to this changing landscape.
There will be few safe, clean places to harvest food and to find drinking water.
Keep a steady eye to the horizon my fellow country and city folk, together we can stop this enemy of our future and demand an immediate Moratorium for this deadly practise. For those who have lost their land or are about to, be assured that the people of Australia will catch wind of this stench and resists its ugly "progress".

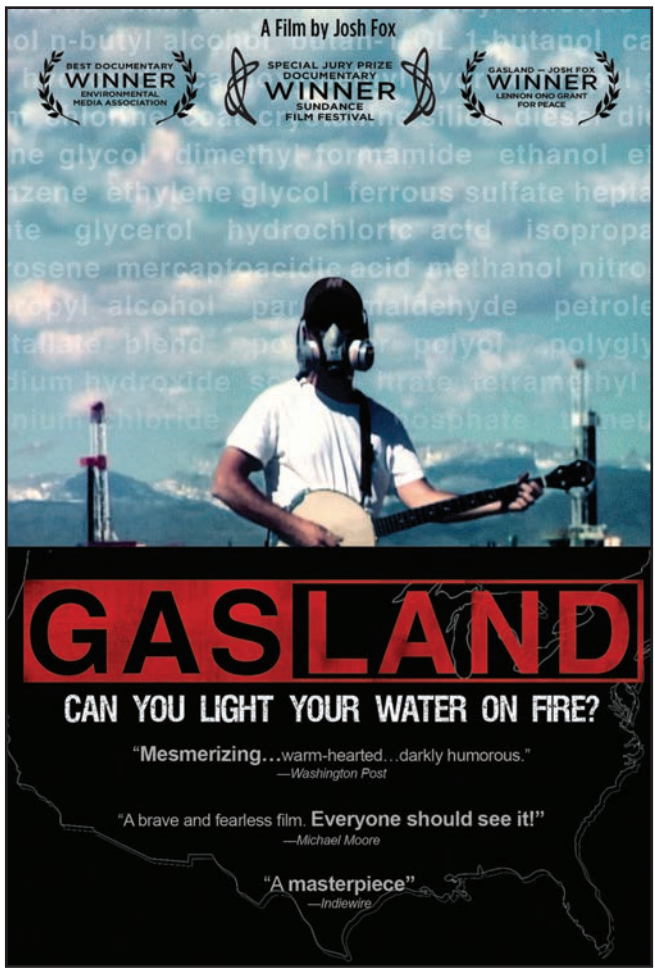
Do not lament just yet, but look at your lost lands and fields as reminders of what we once protected and cherished.
Turn your back on greed and stand beside your brothers for we have other solution but to fight!"

THE TSIG's FINAL WORD

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dZe1AeH0Qz8

Football is AWESOME! I love slide tackles...finger tip saves, manager tactics which shape a game, backheels, headbutts and crackers from outside the box. BUT.....if THIS crap continues, we will have NOTHING left but malakies with a shadow of a doubt of people who ONCE were here...and nw are myth. EVEN SO, COME LORD JESUS.





Sharks to meet South in Cup Derby clash

By Robert Di Fabio

A wealth of fixtures has been played last week as the fourth round of the Mirabella Cup continues its journey en route for the next round. Seven of the remaining ten matches have been played last week. To date, the existing round has witnessed remarkable moments with an induction of drama, vibrancy and far-reaching upsets.

Newly relegated and recent VPL champions of 2008 and 2009 **Altona Magic** (State 1) were left to eat humble pie as they were shocked with the upset of the tournament being overhauled 2-1 by **North Sunshine Eagles** (Prov 1). It was a treasured occasion that will forever be inherited within the North Sunshine outfit. Meanwhile, all the VPL representatives have been left unscathed with progression into the next round.

Review of last week's Mirabella Cup Round 4 Fixtures

In the opening week's fixture **South Yarra** (Prov 1) had the demanding task of taking on an in-form and destructive **Port Melbourne** (State 1) outfit. High ambitions of a successful season could ultimately see Port Melbourne back at the pinnacle of Victorian football. The prize of meeting the prestigious **South Melbourne** in the next round was always a big drawing card. With a vast three divisions separating the two outfits, it came as little surprise to see Port Melbourne stamp its authority on the game. Three memorising goals before the halftime interval capitulated South Yarra's woes as Port Melbourne went on to record a comfortable 6-0 triumph.

A mouth watering clash now awaits between old foes **South Melbourne** and **Port Melbourne.**

High flying **Southern Stars** (State 1) had the task of travelling away to **Kingston City** (State 3) at The Grange Reserve. The Stars were early to stamp their authority on the game leading 2-0 at the halftime break. Kingston didn't die wondering, pulling back a goal mid-way through the second half. With the scores at 2-1, Kingston applied an extensive amount of pressure on the Stars' goal; however the Stars withstood the force and scored three consolation goals in the remaining ten minutes. Southern Stars triumphed 5-1, however on this occasion the score line wasn't a truthful reflection of the game's proceedings.

Former NSL champions **Melbourne Knights** (VPL) had the honour of playing host in their debut cup encounter against **Keilor Park** (State 3) at Knights Stadium. With an evident differentiation among playing divisions Keilor Park remained competitive in the opening period illustrating heart and character to only trail 1-0 at the break. However, a vicious display by the Knights saw them eclipse six goals past the Keilor Park defence eventually coming out 6-2 winners.

The cup reverie was brought into fruition for the newly promoted **Heidelberg Stars** (Prov 3) whom had a dream fixture of hosting former NSL representatives **Preston Lions** (State 1) at DISC. A gulf in the Victorian football pyramid didn't have too much barring for Heidelberg as they emerged with a spare of the spoils, going into the halftime break 1-1. Not many within the football fraternity would have expected Heidelberg Stars to be competitive; however their cup adventure always seems to surprise. Preston Lions ultimately lived up to their prominence, scoring on six occasions to seal the tie with a 7-1 victory. It was a tail that many within the Stars' hierarchy could tell for years to come, and so, the essence of cup football lives on.

Northcote City (VPL) was instilled with playing counterpart **Box Hill United** (State 2) in their debut Mirabella Cup fixture at Wembley Park. The encounter lived up to the hype with a highly competitive display from both clubs. The two divisions in separation didn't seem existent as the score read 0-0 at the halftime break. The scoreless encounter was an accurate reflection of the robust meeting between the two fledging outfits. **Northcote City** was somewhat wasteful in front of goal in the second period; however their superiority was illustrated recording a 2-1 victory. City will play the winner out of **Doncaster Rovers** (State 2) and **Bulleen Lions** (State 1).

One of the more anticipated fixtures of the round took place at Olympic Village when **Banyule City** (State 2), an outfit struggling for fluency and consistency in their respective league ventured to the turf of prosperous **Heidelberg United** (VPL). **Banyule City** stepped it up a gear scoring an early goal, before a late first half goal by Heidelberg sent the teams level at 1-1 during the break. Heidelberg seized the advantage in the opening minutes of the second period by hitting the back of the net, although Banyule were quick to equalise courtesy of a penalty. Banyule were courageous and diligent in their effort for a winner; however Heidelberg's class pulled through with two goals in the remaining 25 minutes. The final score read 4-2 in favour of Heidelberg United, although Banyule's performance may keep them in good stead for a return to winning form in the league.

The final game of last week's Mirabella Cup fixtures saw **Falcons 2000** (Regional) have the privilege of playing host to the resilient **Springvale White Eagles** (VPL). With an enormous gap in status and proficiency the result was never really in doubt. Springvale illustrated their dominance with a vigorous display, claiming an 8-0 victory.

The fourth round of the Mirabella Cup will come to a definitive conclusion this week with the remaining three fixtures taking place. The two Tuesday night matches will witness **Doncaster Rovers** (State 2) host **FC Bullen Lions** (State 1) and Fortuna 60 (Regional) travel away to play **Malvern City** (State 2). Meanwhile, the final game will take place on Sunday between **Cobram Victory** (Regional) and **Whittlesea Zebras** (State 1). The fourth round is steadily drawing to an end. The exhilaration, drama and tension witnessed are an exemplar of how the beauty and attraction of cup football is an exclusive attribute within the beautiful game.

Mirabella Cup action as Keilor Park hit the back of the net against their more illustious opponents Melbourne Knights Photo: MELINDA CIMERA

Melbourne Knights' Jean Charles Dubois returns the favour against Keilor Park in the 6-2 win at Somers Street during the week. Photo: MELIND CIMERA

4th Round Details

Pascoe Vale (S1) 3-0 Mooroolbark (P1)
Geelong (S2) 0-1 St Albans Saints (VPL)
Moreland City (S2) 3-2 Fawkner Blues (S1)
Green Gully Cavaliers (VPL) 18-0 Mildura United (R)
FC Clifton Hill (S2) 5-2 Twin City Wanderers (R)
Hume City (VPL) 2-1 Hume United (S3)
Langwarrin (S1) 0-1 Dandenong City (S2)
Bayside Argonauts (P2) 0-4 Bentleigh Greens (VPL)
Ballarat Red Devils (S2) 0-0 (1-0 ET) North Geelong (S1)
Strathdale (R) 0-11 Sunshine George Cross (S1)
South Melbourne (VPL) 14-0 Yarraville Glory (S3)
Altona Magic (S1) 1-2 North Sunshine Eagles (P1)
Dandenong Thunder (VPL) 2-0 South Springvale (S2)
Waverley Wanderers (S3) 2-5 Oakleigh Cannons (VPL)

Last week's Mirabella Cup Round 4 Results:
Kingston City (S3) 1-5 Southern Stars (S1)
South Yarra (P1) 0-6 Port Melbourne (S1)
Melbourne Knights (VPL) 6-2 Keilor Park (S3)
Heidelberg Stars (P3) 1-7 Preston Lions (S1)
Northcote City (VPL) 2-1 Box Hill United (S2)
Heidelberg United (VPL) 4-2 Banyule City (S2)
Falcons 2000 (R) 0-8 Springvale White Eagles (VPL)

Mirabella Cup Round 4 Draw:
Tue 10 May 7:30pm Doncaster Rovers (S2) v FC Bulleen Lions (S1) – Anderson Park
Tue 10 May 8:30pm Malvern City (S2) v Fortuna 60 (R) – Jack Edwards Reserve
Sun 15 May 3:00pm Cobram Victory (R) v Whittlesea Zebras (S1) – Barooga Recreation Reserve

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Son Jason in action for Hume City before heading off to Portugal. Photo: JOHN PUNSHON

Alan coaching in Japan

Alan's World of Football

Alan Davidson (middle back with sunglasses) with South Melbourne's Women's FC.
Back row l-r: Sophie Findlay, Emma Johnson, Lucrece Laverdure, Amelia Spiranovic, Nat Brajanovski,Sarah McKeon, Alan, Niki Cook, Genia Avram, Esther La Greca, Natalie Kourtis, Cherl Keasberry (Physio), Matthew Shaw (assistant coach).
Front row: Marcela Marques, Laura Spiranovic, Sophie Walsh, Tiffany Eliadis, Mel Aloisio, Penny Bakopoulos, Amber Kuys-Clarke. Photo: JOHN PUNSHON

Alan in his playing days for Knights. Photo: JOHN PUNSHON

WInning the Gold Coast Cup with Jason.

Alan Davidson is a pioneer of Australian football. From the humble beginning of Altona, Alan has achieved many remarkable feats in a world which football is his master key. He talks about the current climate Australian football prospers and why we should take a positive outlook on the code.

Alan recalls the unforgettable memories he holds playing for South Melbourne and Melbourne Knights in the NSL and additionally his life changing experience in Malaysia. Such is his influence on his family, his son Jason, 19, currently plys his trade in Portugal as a professional footballer.

Alan's passion, dedication and loyalty to the game were ultimately rewarded in 2001 with induction into the honourable Football Federation Australia's Hall of Champions. With the world at his feet, Alan currently operates his own youth academy where he helps nurture, assist and develop aspiring kids into the elite athletes of tomorrow.

1. In an interview with SBS in 1995, you had the hallucination of having an Australian born coach managing the national team. Do you still embrace those feeling or do you believe coaches in the vein of Holger Osieck should take charge?

Ideally I'd like to think one day that we can have an Australian born coach, but I think the most important thing is to have a coach that will bring the Soceroos success. If you're bringing coaches over like Holger (Osieck) or Pim Verbeek, they have a lot of experience from overseas and other teams, that's something we need to pass onto the other coach's in the country and help the development of the local coach's. The Socceroos are the flagship of the code in our country.

If the Socceroos do well then it filters through the system and everyone does well. Ideally being a patriot I'd love an Australian coach, however it all depends on the criteria, their experience, credentials, how successful they've been and if they are going to take us to the World Cup.

2. You also mentioned that when you returned to Australia it seemed as though people were looking for a new buzz and energy to ignite the game. In recent times A-League marketing has been mediocre, community engagement lacklustre; instability amongst the league has seen several clubs financially unstable and the recent demise of North Queensland Fury has added to the insult. Are you an avid fan of the current A-League model? What do you believe needs to be implemented to improve football in Australia?

Wow that's a tough one. I'm still an avid fan of the A-League. It's sad we have these problems where clubs are still going under. If I look at Melbourne Victory and what they've done in the A-League, it's been fantastic. They've had a crowd of 50,000 people at a league game. I'm from Melbourne so I can talk about what Melbourne Victory has done.

How they've achieved their success maybe others should try to implement or follow on what they've done. It's a hard one and I'm not sure if I'm qualified to answer it. I'm a fan of the A-League and we obviously need to go through our hurdles and there's no easy quick fix. There's seems to be a bit of a hit and miss with some of the foreign players. I'm not sure what the running costs are but I don't know why clubs are struggling. Are players being overpaid? I'm not too sure.

3. How important was it for Australian football to become affiliated with Asia in 2006?

Frank Lowy initially pulled off three major moves. He got the A-League up and running, he obviously wanted to get into Asia which he did and we went to the World Cup in Germany. There have been a lot of highs and lows but going into Asia has opened up the doors. We have the Champions League, Asian Cup, players and exposure we're getting into Asia. There's a lot of big clubs. I played in Malaysia (Pohang FA) for a while and they always said Australia will never get into the Asian Confederation, but Lowy's pulled it off. It comes back to politicking and getting the right people behind it. We've got in there (Asia) and that's the best thing that has happened to us because I really believe going through Asia we can realistically qualify for the World Cup. Going to the World Cup is big business, not only for the Socceroos but for the whole game. From a marketing point of view the game will only grow. We're finding out that there are quality teams in Japan, Korea, China, Thailand and all over (Asia). It's been a big plus for the game and we need to thank Frank Lowy for that.

4. What do you believe are the major differences between the now defunct NSL and the rejuvenated A-League?

I'd like to think the A-League is run more professionally. A lot depends on the FFA, they need to get the structure right and start implementing the standards which they've done to a certain degree. I think they've done a good job. I don't believe the NSL was as professional; the A-League seems to be quite professional in the marketing and the exposure of it on television. The other factors were that we were all semi-professionals (players), we all had jobs and we had to train after work three times a week. Now they (players) are full-time and making a lot money and living a great life. More exposure through the TV rights, the Socceroos' success and the A-League with Asia. A lot of people question the standard of the past to present and vice-versa but I don't join in on it, at the end of the day I look forward to seeing quality players come through the system.

5. Currently A-League clubs merely poach young talent from the local state league outfits instead of taking the initiative to assist, train, develop and nurture playing talent from a younger age. Taking more of an initiative for youth development by having academies for the juniors would be ideal for Australian football, similar to what many NSL clubs did with their junior ranks. On the whole, do you believe the A-League clubs should do more for the growth of our future talent?

Ideally I think that's the direction, I think it's a stepping stone. Are they ready for it? At the moment it appears that they aren't because of the finances. Some of the clubs are struggling to stay alive. There's no doubt that there is no shortage of quality players. As long as the coaching is right. We've had a lot of success with quality players coming through the system. It all comes down to the budget.

6. Ange Postecoglou's current Brisbane Roar outfit has been allured from various media outlets as the best club side to ply its trade on Australian shores. Would you agree with this sentiment?

Yes I would, I think Ange has done a really good job. Ange went in there and by the sounds of it had confrontations with the senior players, he stuck to his guns and made the decision and got ride of many players. Then there was the re-building stage, where he invested his time into the younger players, gave them a chance and trusted them. They played some really good football this year, they were the most exciting and most enterprising team and they followed on with winning the championship with an exciting conclusion.

7. During your playing days, what did you enjoy most about your time at South Melbourne and Melbourne Knights?

I think it was the passion of the game. Both clubs were quite loyal and looked after me. I probably had a lot more of an association with South Melbourne because my wife and family are Greek and I'm still involved with South Melbourne at some level here now. I have good memories, I had a good relationship with the clubs and they were the vehicle for me to enjoy the passion of the game.

8. What was your most memorable moment?

Winning the NSL title with South Melbourne (1984) was a great achievement. For us to win the championship was quite good. I look back on it and their memories for me now. I had a lot of good times; I enjoyed the passion, battles and challenges in the game.

9. How would you describe your experience in Malaysia with Pohang FA?

Malaysia came at a good time for me because I lost my drive and direction a bit. At Melbourne Knights we had just lost two NSL titles in a row and I had enough of the game. With the Socceroos I'd had enough, we just got knocked out of the World Cup Qualifier again and just wanted to retire from the game. Then I had this opportunity to go to Malaysia at the age of 32. I thought ok; let's see what happens I'll go as a working holiday. I ended up spending six years in Malaysia and it was a great experience. I got to make a lot of friends, the club was very successful. We won championships and cups. It was a new lease of life for me going to Malaysia; I ended up retiring at the age of 38.

10. Overall, how has football changed on and off the pitch in contrast to when you were an adolescent learning your football trade?

The game has excelled and is a lot bigger now. It has a lot to do with the Socceroos. With the World Cup's there was a long period from 1974 to 2006 (before we qualified), the game needed an injection like Frank Lowy. I really believe the flagship for football in Australia is the Socceroos. If we don't get the Socceroos right, the whole game will suffer. While the Socceroos are making the World Cup, the game will always be happy. For the grassroots, the kids need to have idols to look up to. The game has evolved in a good direction in regards to the Socceroos and it's so important that they do well.

11. Who was the biggest influence on your career?

I think everyone played a part in my career. A lot of the coach's I've had in previous years all played their part. If I was to single one person out it would probably be my father. He was the one who spent all the time to take me to training and games. From the early days if you haven't got the family support, you can't fulfil your dreams or follow your dreams.

12. Did you have an idol you would look up to?

Not so much when I was younger but I've always been a fan of Maradona. For me he's the best player that has played the game. I've got all the tapes of Maradona and that's what I've shown my son, I think he's unbelievable.

13. Having made over 50 appearances with the Socceroos, what do you recall as your greatest memory with the national team?

The one thing I always got out of the Socceroos was being proud to be Australian and listening to the national anthem. It was something you really can't relate to unless you've actually experienced it. For me the highlight was listening to the national anthem and being so proud to play for my country.

14. How's your son Jason travelling in Portugal?

Jason's doing really well. At one stage he was the youngest player starting in the first division, and then he got injured and lost his way a bit. He's been loaned out to get game time to Sporting Covilha and he's played the last 10 games and doing really well. He was telling me the other day that scouts from Porto were looking at him. Pacos want him back (next season), they just sold their full-back who's from Brazil. He's only 19 so he is still young. Not too many people know about the Portuguese league, it's quite a strong league. In the Europa League the last four teams were a Spanish team and three Portuguese teams.

15. At present you're currently coaching Northcote City's junior ranks and South Melbourne in the WPL. How are you finding the coaching side of things? What do you enjoy most?

I've got a relationship with Northcote where I've got my own football school and we've taken 30 of my boys over there to play because we want them to lead into the pathway to step up to the Victorian Premier League. I'm trying to help the club out as much as I can as well.

It's good to put something back, guys from my academy like Matthew Leckie (Borussia Monchengladbach), Jason (son), Francesco Stellar (Siena), Bradley Norton (Adelaide United) and a lot of boys in the VPL that have some through my school. I get a lot of satisfaction.

In regards to South Melbourne, my mate is the President (Leo Athanasakis). They were in a problem last year where they lost their opening six or seven games and were in the relegation zone. He asked me if I could come and help them out and I'm doing it again this year. I'm enjoying (coaching) the women, I'm impressed with some of the standards of the girls and their commitment to the game and it's opened my eyes up more to female football.

16. Looking towards the future, do you have aspirations to coach at a more elite level? Namely the VPL, A-League or even overseas?

At the moment I'm pretty much full-time with my school, that's my passion. I've enjoyed being involved with the kids, trying to develop, get them to another level and get them into the right pathway. With aspirations in regards to coaching at senior level I'm not sure. I've done a little bit in the past but I think I enjoy the juniors more so.

17. What do you believe are the key ingredients for young aspiring footballers to make it to the elite level of competition?

I think there are different stages of development. Our kids need to work a lot more on their touch and skill. Not just their first touch, I'm talking about above their waist as well. At grassroots level, working on their touch and technique on both feet are important to getting towards that elite level.

Thank you for your time Alan and best of luck for your future football endeavours and also to your son Jason.

Four Goal Ronaldo Keeps La Liga Race Alive

Viva Espana

Pepe Lopez

Four goals from Portuguese star Ronaldo was enough to keep Barcelona's La Liga celebrations on ice for another week.

Real Madrid Coach Jose Mourinho returned to bench after being suspended from the touchline in the Champions League Semi-Final second leg at the Nou Camp in Barcelona mid-week, and re-structured his team to play in a 4-5-1 formation, a midfield consisting of Ronaldo, Ozil, Kaka, Alonso and Diarra. A formation that probably would dominate any team, and one can only wonder how it would have performed against Barcelona in the Champions League, if it had seen the light of day. Jose Mourinho interestingly chose not to attend the Nou Camp for the Champions League Semi-Final 2nd Leg at the Nou Camp, instead he watched the game from the team's hotel on television, perhaps a decision based on security reasons, considering Jose had a bodyguard knifed earlier in the year when Real Madrid travelled to A Coruna.

The halftime score was 3-0 to Real, with goals by Ramos, Ronaldo and Kaka, at which point much of the Sevillistas home support had decided to leave the Ramón Sánchez Pizjuán stadium and go home. The match of the round on paper brought the 2010 Spanish Cup winners Seville together against the 2011 Spanish Cup Winners Real Madrid, the 6-2 result however did little for Seville's chances of qualifying for the Europa League who trail Atletico Madrid in sixth place on goal difference, despite Atleti's shock 3-0 home loss to Mallorca on the same day. With both Atletico Madrid and Seville losing, Athletic Bilbao leapfrogged both teams into fifth place with a 3-2 home win against Levante.

Real Madrid has become a club divided by those who support Jose Mourinho and those that do not. Despite being in the direct firing line of both club and honorary club presidents, Jose tends to have majority support amongst Madrid supporters and now the club's technical counsellor in Zinedine Zidane, who declared; "I am in very good terms with him (Jose Mourinho) and his staff, I appreciate what they are doing and I co-operate with them. I have the maximum respect for their job." On Friday UEFA dished out its punishment, suspending Jose from the touchline in Real Madrid's next five Champions League matches in the 2011-2012 season.

Seville's Alvaro Negredo scored two second half consolation goals for the home supporters who did choose to watch the match to completion, but it was clearly Ronaldo's day who despite scoring 4 goals could have had ended up with 6. Barcelona will play at home to local rivals Espanyol in a Sunday fixture, where a win will leave Barcelona needing just one point to secure the 2010-2011 La Liga title.

Keeping it Real: Ronaldo pulls in a swagger and keep the the La Liga alive for at least one more week.

La Liga

	P	GD	Pts
1 Barcelona	34	70	88
2 Real Madrid	35	56	83
3 Valencia	35	18	66
4 Villarreal	34	13	60
5 Athletic Bilbao	35	4	54
6 Sevilla	35	-1	52
7 Atletico Madrid	35	8	52
8 Espanyol	34	-5	48
9 Sporting Gijon	35	-6	43
10 Levante	35	-10	43
11 Racing	35	-14	43
12 Malaga	35	-14	42
13 Mallorca	34	-12	42
14 Real Sociedad	35	-16	41
15 Getafe	35	-9	40
16 Real Zaragoza	34	-12	39
17 Deportivo	35	-15	39
18 Osasuna	34	-3	38
19 Hercules	35	-23	33
20 Almeria	35	-29	26

Full list of La Liga Results from Saturday May 07;

Sevilla FC 2-6 Real Madrid
Atlético Madrid 0-3 Málaga CF
Athletic Bilbao 3-2 Levante UD
Getafe CF 2-0 UD Almería
Hércules CF 2-3 Racing Santander
Sporting Gijón 2-2 Deportivo La Coruña
Valencia CF 3-0 Real Sociedad

SHORT PASSES

Kate Gill out of contention Women's World Cup

Football Federation Australia can confirm that Westfield Matildas striker Kate Gill will undergo surgery in Adelaide after sustaining an Anterior Cruciate Ligament injury.

Gill, the current AFC Female Player of the Year, was injured while playing for her club Linköpings FC on Thursday last week in Sweden.

The talented striker who is the Westfield Matildas all-time second highest goal scorer will begin her recovery following surgery today and will now miss the FIFA Women's World Cup next month in Germany.

"This is a massive blow for Katie who has been going from strength-to-strength over the past few years," Westfield Matildas Head Coach Tom Sermanni.

"Although it is devastating news for Katie, she is a true professional and I am sure she will come back stronger than ever.

"It's disappointing for the whole team whose thoughts go out to Katie.

"We're in a healthier position to be able to deal with this situation due to the potent group of strikers that we have at our disposal and we will continue to work hard in our preparations for the World Cup next month and our upcoming matches against New Zealand,' concluded Sermanni.

Matildas host Ferns

Westfield Matildas will play cross Tasman rivals, New Zealand national team the Football Ferns, in a two match series in Gosford.

Westfield Matildas v New Zealand Football Ferns
Sunday, 15 May 2011
Bluetongue Stadium, Gosford
Local kick-off: 3.00pm AEST
Live and Exclusive on ABC1

Falcons 50th Anniversary

The Falcons 2000 SC will be celebrating its 50th anniversary with a gala dinner to be held on the weekend of May 21-22. If you were involved or played with Morwell Falcons/Gippsland Falcons and would like to attend the event please ring Nick Torrieri on 0422 828 619.

Balkan Wrap

Alex Milic

Serbia

Partizan Belgrade is on it's way to winning the Serbian Super-Liga for the fourth year running following Red Star's slip up against OFK Beograd which now puts the Belgrade 'Black and Whites' five points clear at the top with fpur games remaining. Partizan easily overcame BSK 4:0 with gals to youngster Savic and three goals followinf the breal to Iliev and a double by former Portsmouth midfielder Zvonimir Vukic.

Red Star failed to put pressure on Partizan and stay alive for the title with a dissapointing goalless draw with midtable OFK Beograd in the local derby. Red Star had most of the ball and the better chances but failed to convert any of them into goals. The title race is more than likely over following this result but Red Star can hold it's head high with a great season under Robert Prosinecki who has transformed the club into an attacking, dominating side.

"I would like to thank my boys because they managed to create a lot of plays and positioned themselves very well. We diminated the throughout the match nad OFK only had one chance. We had a goal dissallowed but I don't know if it was offside or not, i wasn't in position to see it. I'm not satisfied with our perfromance and of course the result is in no way any good for us, all we lacked was a goal. I'd like to congratulate OFK Beograd with their fair parformance. With this point we have lost pace with Partizan with only four rounds remaining and I believe my boys will have more luck in these remaining games. We do however have theoretical chances but it's going to be very hard now." Prosinecki said following the match.

Serbia will take on the Socceroos on June 7 in a friendly math in Melbourne. The news has delighted the Serbian community and many of them have already booked their tickets and flights to Melbourne from across the nation. We will wait and see what kind of team the Serbs will send down here but either way it will be a great spectacle especially following the clash at last years World Cup in South Africa.

Results:
OFK Beograd - Crvena zvezda 0:0

Borac - Vojvodina 1:1
Damjanovic 36' - M.Novakovic 44'

Sloboda Sevojno - Javor 2:0
Lazic 28', 90'

Partizan - BSK 4:0
Savic 33', Vukic 51', 61', Iliev 57'

Croatia

Vahid Halihodzic is no longer the manager of Dinamo Zagreb following an incident which overshadowed Round 28 and the Croatian League this season. Dinamo took on Inter with the score going into the break at 0:0 Dinamo President the controversial Zdravko Mamic went storming into the dressing room and started yelling at Halihodzic "What the fuck have you done with my team? They are playing shit, you have ruined my team." Reports suggest that Mamic even mentioned Halihodzic's mother in the rant which shocked the former Yugoslav legend. The match ended 1:0 for Dinamo but Halihodzic had enough and resigned straight after the game. He told his players this would be his last game with tears to the shock of the team.

Halihodzic has left Dinamo Zagreb

The circus continues at the club. Mamic is hated by all fans in Croatia for his lack of respect to journalists, fans, managers and players. Reports are now suggesting former Dinamo Managers Josip Kuze and Branko Ivankovic are the hot favourites for the Managerial position.

Just to add Vahid Halihodzic lost only one game in the Croatian League with Dinamo and he broke the record of least goals conceded by any club in the history of the Croatian League. He also guided the club to the league title and Croatian Cup Final which will be played in a couple of weeks.

The news isn't any better for Hajduk who lost bottom of the table Hrvatski Dragovoljac 2:0. Ante Mise's side is now only two points ahead of HNK Split with two rounds remaining and could easily miss out on a European position. The results angered all Hajduk lovers and after the game, Hajduk fans started attacking the players with chairs.

"Not even in my darkest dreams could I believe that Hajduk is this poor. The players which played received an opportunity to show what they had but a vast majority didn't show anything. Now we are in a very hard situation under psychological pressures but we must pick ourselves up and finish the season as good as possible." Hajduk Manager Ante Mise after the match.

The former Hajduk player added "I'm not thinking about resigning. In Siget we put out a very young side and the players didn't pass the test now we have to sleep it over and then I will give the players a DVD of this match so they can be embarrassed and ashamed of themselves to wear the Hajduk jersey."

Results.
Cibalia- Zagreb 2:2
Split-Zadar 3:2
Rijeka- Šibenik 1:1
Karlovac-Istra 1961 1:1
Slaven Belupo-Lokomotiva 2:2
Hrvatski dragovoljac-Hajduk 2:0
Varaždin-Osijek 2:4
Dinamo-Inter Zaprešic 1:0

SERBIA

	P	GD	Pts
1. Partizan	26	67:18	68
2. Crvena zvezda	26	46:13	63
3. Vojvodina	26	41:11	60
4. Rad	25	34:16	47
5. Sloboda Sevojno	26	30:31	37
6. Spartak	25	26:19	36
7. Javor	26	19:19	36
8. OFK Beograd	26	22:25	35
9. Smederevo	25	23:25	34
10. Borac	26	17:27	29
11. BSK	26	21:34	29
12. Jagodina	25	19:26	27
13. Indija	25	23:42	20
14. Metalac	25	15:33	19
15. Hajduk	25	18:35	18
16. Cukaricki	25	8:54	4

CROATIA

	P	GD	Pts
1 Dinamo	28	+40	70
2 Hajduk	28	+20	51
3 Split	28	+15	49
4 Cibalia	28	+10	41
5 Inter Zaprešic	28	-1	41
6 Karlovac	28	-2	39
7 Osijek	28	+3	38
8 Rijeka	28	-4	38
9 Slaven Belupo	28	+4	37
10 Zadar	28	-5	34
11 Varaždin	28	-8	33
12 Šibenik	28	-2	31
13 Zagreb	28	-8	31
14 Lokomotiva	28	-13	30
15 Istra 1961	28	-20	28
16 Hrvatski dragovoljac	28	-29	23

Injury Time

Brought to you by Elastoplast

With Victory Physio Daniel Jones

Welcome to my final Goal! Weekly Article. It is the day after another ACL match. We managed a commendable 1-1 draw with Gamba Osaka at Etihad Stadium last Wednesday night and while we can still mathematically make the second stage, we will need a lot of luck and results to go their way in the final round next week. On a side note, it was Kevin Muscat's last match for the Victory on home soil.

As this is my final article, I thought it would be useful reiterate the key messages from my previous articles. So below are each article summarized. I have also included the link so you can read the full version online.

1.Avoiding Injury

In my very first article I touched on types of injuries, causes and effects and some basic preventatives to help avoid injuries occurring.

I then went on to explain the causes and effects these injuries can have and ran you through some basic points that might assist in avoiding these common injuries in the future.

2.Thompson's ACL Torture

My second article, I focused on the serious knee injury sustained by Melbourne Victory and Australian capped Archie Thompson.

Across this column I spoke about the injury suffered and how this affected Archie's short-term career along with my involvement in getting one of the Victory's most valuable players back on the park.

It was along road back for Archie after the serious knee injury suffered against fierce rivals Sydney FC. It's great to see the big man up and about causing havoc on the pitch. Having him play each week can only be a good thing for the club and A-League.

3.Soft Tissue Injuries

My third article focused on soft tissue injuries. These injuries occur constantly through all professional and amateur clubs and if not treated in the right fashion cause persist and be a long nuisance.

In this article I explain two most common soft tissue injuries (muscle strains & blunt trauma) I deal with on a day-to-day basis at the Victory. I then go on to explain how these injuries commonly occur and what exercises you can do to lower the risks of picking up these types of injuries.

4.Muscat's Ankle Injury

This article saw me focus on our club captain and former International Kevin Muscat. As mentioned earlier it was Kevin's last match for us on home soil. While it was disappointing not to come away with a victory, the boys know they still have another chance to send him out the way he deserves. In saying that, with a bit of luck there is still is a small window of opportunity to progress to the next stage. I know the boys will not give up until that final whistle is blown.

Like other players, Kevin's career was also affected by injury. And in this article I went into detail about the ankle injury that recently kept him off the park. I explain in detail the type of injury suffered and how it was treated and how Kevin prepared himself before and after a game.

On a personal note, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Kevin on an amazing career. It has been a pleasure to work with one of Australia's long serving icon. I hope to be able to work along side him for many years to come as he serves as an assistant coach for the next few years.

5.Recovery and Prevention

My penultimate saw me focus on key points for injury prevention along with some vital recovery principles.

Fortunately, most sports injuries can be treated effectively and more importantly, many sports injuries can be prevented if people take the proper precautions. We all suffer from minor/major injuries at some point but if we can prepare before and after a game you will find the risk can dramatically decrease leading to a longer period spent on the pitch, and that can only be good.

Flanked by his children, Kevin Muscat leads out Melbourne Victory for the last time on home soil against Japan's Gamba Osaka last Wednesday night. Photo: DANIEL FLIS

Finally I would like to thank everyone who has read my columns over the last 6 weeks. I hope you have enjoyed reading them as much as I have enjoyed writing them and hopefully you have learnt a little something along the way.

For further taping techniques visit http://www.elastoplastsport.com.au/injury/TapingTechniques.aspx or alternatively downloading the iPhone application

All of Daniel's Injury Time columns can be found at www.goalweekly.com

***Daniel can be consulted at Lifecare Croydon Sports Medicine.**

BOO'S WORLD

With Mark Boric

Pld W D L F A Pts. That's what goes above the columns in league tables. What we are currently lacking in Victoria is a column for points deducted. PD maybe? -P perhaps?

The minute the pressure of challenging for the title is off, Arsenal defeat Manchester United. If Sid James and Kenneth Williams were still alive, you could make a movie about it called Carry On Choking.

Jose Mourinho has been espousing conspiracy theories all week. No mention yet of whether he thinks the Osama Bin Laden killing was real or not.

Melboune Victory cling to life in the Asian Champions League. Can Mehmet Durakovic get them through to the next round and will he get the coaching job full-time if he does so?

Ljubo Milicevic's latest target is the recently retired Michael Bridges. In an SBS The World Game live blog he noted "He always wanted a retirement plan. He has not played anywhere regularly for more than six years". Which is amusing because it's not like Ljubo's played week in week out for long spells in a while either.

Bridges has got the job of International Football and Business Development Manager at the Newcastle Jets parent company. Tinkler Sports Group. It's a fancy title, and you have to wonder if his job will only be strapping horses at Patinack Farm and calling Michael Owen regularly to try and get him to play for the Jets.

Final flings? Victory face a do or die battle in the ACL this Wednesday and it could be the last hurrah in more ways than one at Victory. Photo: SYDNEY LOW

VTC Football on the end of another heavy defeat last week, 0-6 to Green Gully. Will they be active during the transfer window? Can the FFV use some of the fines revenue to get them a big name signing?

The Altona Magic part of Paisely Park was attacked by vandals during the week. Vandals with a guilty conscience maybe, because after spraying graffiti all over the place they tried helping the club out by digging up the pitch for some much needed maintenance.

Anyone for tennis? The FFA have scheduled the Socceroos for a game with Serbia at Etihad Stadium. Hopefully the game does not have to be abandoned after seven minutes.

Good laugh on the FFV AVPL Facebook page when halfway through the first half of the Thunder v Cannons game an Oakleigh fan discovers that the game is NOT being played behind closed doors. Given the result, he was soon probably happy about the misunderstanding.

Queen's Park Rangers have been promoted to the English Premiership after the Football Association didn't impose any points deductions after being found guilty on two of seven charges relating to their signing of Alejandro Faurlin. They did get a steep fine though. Do not believe having to play games behind closed doors came into the equation.

THE KATSA

With George Katsamboukas

Another big week in Football, where....

King St Melbourne, renowned for certain afterdark establishments, frequented by some of the State's finest Club Powerbrokers, was the scene of a Marathon Appeals Hearing in the case of House of Darebin Vs Dandenong Thunder Soccer Club, during the week.

After four and a half hours, the case was adjourned, thus allowing the home game against Oakleigh to be played in front of spectators.

What I find amazing though, is something that I have not seen before after any Tribunal Hearing, and that is as soon as it concluded, The House of Darebin swung into full gear, with a Media Release being sent immediately out via email, outlining the details of the hearing, followed by comments by Mark Rendell about Dandenong Thunders previous misdemeanours, as well as the FFV's Zero Tolerance Policy.

In my opionion the content seemed very one sided, and for mine, should not have been released until after the Appeals process has concluded.

At the same time, regardless how this episode concludes, clubs , club supporters, officials and the like, need to be mindful of their actions in order to avoid getting themselves into this type of mess in thefirst place.

There's no denying it's in the best interests of the game and in this particular instance the VPL, to stamp out unruly behaviour at matches.

Whilst one can argue that these sorts of incidents happen the world over, it doesn't mean it neccessarily makes it right.

I'm all for supporting your team and appealing decisions in the spirit of the game, but generally speaking the competition does not need the adverse publicity these instances have generated lately.

As we all know the Thunder case is not an isolated one, as there was a ruckus outside Olympic Village prior to a VPL match taking place a few weeks ago involving supporters of Heidelberg United and Melbourne Knights.

The sooner we can eliminate this sort of undesirable behaviour out of the game the sooner clubs can attract more fans to their club supporter base instead of scaring them away.

Dandenong Thunder will shortly know its fate regarding this case, however on the park they did the business in style over the Oakleigh Cannons with a 3-1 victory.

Over to the UK we go, where ex South Melbourne player, Patrick Kisnorbo, has been offered a short term contract by Leeds United

Kisnorbo has suffered a number of serious injury's, the most recent one being to his achilles, keeping him out for the entire season, and the Leed's Gaffer will give him 6 weeks to prove his fitness befoe deciding whether to offer him a longer contract.

Perhaps Patrick should have been reading Daniel Jones' Injury Time column in Goal! Weekly each week.

The EPL is going to down to the wire, with the Man U vs Chelsea almost certainly deciding which team will hear the Fat Lady Sing.

There will be a lot of weary Punters fronting up to work today having stayed up in the wee hours to watch this Blockbuster.

Until next week...

This is Katsa, just as you have known him

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This is the 100th BFTP! Congratulations are in order to Roy Hay for compiling such a sensational series.
On behalf of all of us at GW and the readers, thank you! Ed.

The Alagich Family

BLAST FROM THE PAST

With Roy Hay

The First Family of Football

Few families have made as big a sustained contribution to Australian football as the Alagichs.

Whether this can be attributed to their heritage or ethnic background or whether it resulted purely from family or personal preference can be debated, but the extent of their involvement is remarkable. The Alagich family produced male and female Australian representatives, state and national league players and one of the country's leading coaches and educators. Les Murray presented a collective biography of the Alagich family on SBS television on 16 March 2008.

Josip Alagich arrived in Australia in 1924 from Makarska in Dalmatia. He had been a member of the socialist and republican movements in Croatia while serving in the navy, participating in the uprising of 1918. He had three sons, Marin, Rudolph and Slavko by his wife Trifona, but separated from her and brought the boys to Australia in 1932. Settling in Broken Hill, Josip worked in the mines and was a leader in the mining union movement.

Marin was a boxer and footballer and helped form the Broken Hill Soccer Association in 1938. He was also strongly involved in trade unionism. After a spell in the army during the Second World War he worked in defence factories in Sydney and later trained as a teacher. He was determined to counter prejudice against the new Australian migrants through sport and formed the Sydney Yugoslav Soccer Club in 1946, and helped organise the tour by Hajduk Split in 1949. He was also a key figure in the foundation of a number of other clubs including Brookvale, Oryin and Yugal, the last of which became one of the leading clubs in the New South Wales first division in the 1960s. One of the pioneers of multiculturalism in Australia his work was recognised by the award of a British Empire Medal, the Order of Australia Medal and life membership of the ALP.

Joe Alagich, Marin's son, was a star of the Yugal Ryde team in the 1960s and early 1970s. A small, fast winger he played over 260 games and scored over 100 goals in 16 seasons with the club. He was part of the squad selected for the 1969 Socceroos who embarked on an ultimately unsuccessful bid to qualify for the World Cup in Mexico in 1970. He also represented New South Wales, but the competition for the wing berths at state and national level was intense and Sid Grant wondered why he was overlooked when speed was needed in the national team.

Colin Alagich, the son of Slavko, played in Port Adelaide, and was a long time official of the Port Adelaide club and wrote the history of the game in that area.[i] <#_edn1>

Colin's son, Richie Alagich, played more than 250 games in total for West Adelaide, South Melbourne and Brisbane Strikers in the National Soccer League and Adelaide United in the A-League. A schoolboy international, he represented Australia at Youth and Olympic level. When the A-League began he returned to Adelaide United and became its club champion and won the players' player award. In 2008 he took part in the Asian Champions League as Adelaide United reached the final, the only Australian team to do so. He retired in 2008 with over 100 A-League games to his credit and took up coaching.

Colin's daughter Dianne was a star with the Matildas, playing for more than a decade at the top level of the women's game. She got her first cap when she was only sixteen years old. Dianne Alagich played 86 times for Australia and her last game was on 12 July 2009. She was part of three successive World Cup qualification campaigns in 1999, 2003 and 2007. Serious knee injuries saw her out of the game for two years but she came back to play in the W-League and for the Matildas. In her club career, Dianne represented Port Adelaide, West Adelaide, Adelaide Sensation, the South Australian Institute of Sport and the San Jose CyberRays in the US Women's League.

Richard Alagich, the son of Rudolph, is one of Australia's leading coach educators, completing a degree in sports science in Zagreb. He is the author of several coaching books and a critic of the physical type of play which dominated Australian football over many years.[ii] <#_edn2> Always controversial, he resigned as coach of Manly in the New South Wales State League in 1976 after sensational press reports about his showing a film of Nazi atrocities at Auschwitz to his team shortly before they took the field against Melita Eagles.[iii] <#_edn3> He coached youth teams at State and National levels and was technical director of Australia's first Soccer Apprenticeship Scheme and former Soccer NSW REP Program Director. He has been involved with the Pacific Umbro Soccer Camp program since 1978.

Younger members of the family are involved in football in a variety of ways today and the Alagichs will make more contributions to the game at all levels in the future.

[i] <#_ednref> Colin Alagich, 100 Years of the World Game.

[ii] <#_ednref> Richard Alagich, Soccer: Winning through Technique and Tactics. Les Murray and Richard Alagich, So, you want to be a coach.

[iii] <#_ednref> Soccer Action 19 July 1978.

Richie Alagich is chaired off after his last game for Adelaide United vs Changchun Yatai in 2008. Photo: ADAM BUTLER

Frank Haffey of St George-Budapest saves from Joe Alagich of Yugal Ryde in the New South Wales State League. Source: Soccer World, 18 September 1970.

Marin Alagich and Bob Hawke.

Australia's 1969 squad before the World Cup qualification matches. Back row, left to right: Les Bordacs, manager, Alan Marnoch, John Watkiss, Stan Ackerley, George Keith, Tom Patrick, official, Joe Vlasits, coach. Middle row: Dr Brian Corrigan, physician, Ron Corry, Gary Manuel, David Zeman, Don Sandell, Ray Baartz, Jim Fraser, Brian Le Fevre, ASF Secretary. Front row: John Perin, Billy Vojtek, Atti Abonyi, Johnny Warren, Willie Rutherford, Danny Walsh, Joe Alagic, Tommy McColl. Source: Laurie Schwab collection, Deakin University Library.

Colin Alagich in the colours of the Port Adelaide Pirates at Hindmarsh Stadium in 2005. Photo: ADAM BUTLER

Dianne Alagich: A fierce competitor for the Matildas. Photo: ADAM BUTLER

Latin Wrap

Francis Fields

Horror run for Brazilian clubs

Libertadores action as Uruguayan giants Penarol reach the quarter finals after ousting Internacional.

The quarterfinals lineup will be Once Caldas vs. Santos, Vélez vs. Libertad, Peñarol vs. Universidad Católica, and Chiapas vs. Cerro Porteño. Catch all the live the action on Setanta Sports.

Paraguayan goalkeeper legend José Luis Chilavert with Frenchman and UEFA president Michel Platini at an asado barbeque in Paraguay to meet up with fellow delegates in support of Sepp Blatter's FIFA re-election next month

Copa Libertadores Wrap

Four Brazilian clubs - including reigning champions Internacional - were eliminated from the Copa Libertadores on Wednesday.

Penerol v Internacional

Uruguayan giants **Peñarol** ousted **Internacional** from the tournament 3-2 on aggregate in their round-of-16 clash.

Their second leg in Porto Alegre saw the title holders go ahead on the night 1-0 and 2-1 on aggregate, courtesy of Oscar's strike after just two minutes to deliriously please the home faithful after a mistake in midfield.

The hosts could have gone further ahead but settled on their one-goal advantage at the break.

Peñarol came out firing however in the second half, however bolting through the left flank wasting little time in finding the net with Argentine striker Alejandro Martinuccio beating goalkeeper Renan in the Internacional goal only a minute after play restarted.

Four minutes later, the Uruguay Primera División champions took the lead when Juan Manuel Olivera rose highest to cushion a superb header past a diving Renan.

Peñarol withstood a frantic final 20 minutes as Internacional fought desperately for a winner, but they held firm to reach the competition's quarter finals.

Cruzeiro v Once Caldas

Colombian outfit **Once Caldas** ensured the culling of Brazilian sides continued, as they arrested a 2-1 first-leg deficit against **Cruzeiro** courtesy of a 2-0 away win at Joaquim Henrique Nogueira stadium in Belo Horizonte.

Cruzeiro were forced to play with 10 men for just under an hour after Roger was sent off for picking up two yellow cards within five minutes, but Once Caldas also lost their numerical advantage when Carlos Carbonero was given his marching orders in the 56th minute.

Once Caldas however, seemed to thrive on playing with 10 men, with Diego Amaya and Colombia striker Dayro Moreno both netted four minutes apart to record a rousing comeback victory.

Catolica v Gremio

Chile's **Universidad Católica** wrapped up a 3-1 aggregate victory over **Gremio** courtesy of a 1-0 home win at their home, the San Carlos de Apoquindo stadium in Santiago.

Católica playing from a 2-1 away leg victory in Porto Alegre, Brazil, sealed their progress to the final eight for a meeting with Uruguay's Peñarol when attacking midfielder and club legend Milovan Mirosevic scored in the 87th minute.

It was the same line-up coach Juan Antonio Pizzi displayed last week away for the Chilean side in a match lacking attacking flair and to be honest was quite ordinary at times. Católica however kept their task at bay in the first half and made way for substitutions in the second where Mirosevic came on for fellow play-maker Marcelo Cañete and made the difference three minutes from time.

Libertad v Fluminense

Paraguayan side **Libertad** ensured a clean sweep of Brazilian exits on Wednesday as they spectacularly ousted **Fluminense** 4-3 on aggregate.

The Brazilians' 3-1 home victory in the first leg put them in a dominant position heading to the Dr Nicolás Léoz stadium, but one-time River Plate winger Rodrigo Rojas ensured a nervous final half-hour for the visitors when he scored in the 58th minute.

Fluminense tried to hold on to their 3-2 advantage but were heartbroken when midfielder Miguel Samudio found the back of the net in the 86th minute, putting the hosts ahead on goal difference.

Substitute Jose Núñez made sure of the result for Libertad with his injury time goal.

Cerro Porteno v Estudientes

Both legs of the tie between **Cerro Porteño** of Paraguay and **Estudiantes de La Plata** of Argentina finished scoreless to take the second match straight to penalties. Extra time is not played in the Copa Libertadores.

After seven successful kicks, Facundo Roncaglia had his effort saved by Cerro goalkeeper Diego Barreto and Javier Villarreal smashed his penalty into the roof of the net to put the home side through.

Just before Roncaglia's failure, Cerro's Luis Cáceres had his first kick saved by Agustín Orion but scored at the second attempt after the officials decided the Estudiantes goalkeeper had moved off his line too early.

The elimination of Estudiantes, winners of the Libertadores in 2009, comes as a surprise and leaves **Vélez Sarsfield** as the only Argentine club left in the competition.

Liga v Velez

Vélez cruised past **Liga** with a 2-0 win in difficult Quito away, adding to a 3-0 victory in the first home leg in Buenos Aires. Ricardo Álvarez and Ivan Bella scored the goals in a match suspended for 17 minutes in the first half because of a floodlight failure.

Junior v Chiapas

Elsewhere, after a 1-1 draw in the first leg, **Junior** took the lead three times against **Chiapas** with goals from Juan Valencia, Luis Paez' penalty and Carlos Bacca but failed to hold on each time.

Jackson Martínez scored the first two equalizers and was then sent off alongside Junior's Cesar Fawcett in the 79th minute with the score at 3-2. Edgar Andrade then popped up with a third equalizer for Chiapas in the 87th minute to squeeze the Mexican club into the quarters on the away goals rule.

Santos v America

The results meant **Santos** will be Brazil's sole survivor in the last eight. Santos completed a 1-0 aggregate win over Mexico's **América** on Tuesday.

The raft of eliminations leaves the Libertadores wide open. In the last six years, Brazil has supplied eight finalists and three winners. Santos' last victory in the continental tournament was in 1963 when Pelé led the team to success. They will now be seeking glory from the likes of stars Paulo Henrique Ganso, Elano and Neymar.

As well as Estudiantes in 2009, Boca Juniors won the Copa for Argentina in 2007.

Ecuador's Liga de Quito now eliminated, is the only team outside the two traditional South American powerhouses to win the tournament in the past six years.

The quarterfinals lineup will be Once Caldas vs. Santos, Vélez vs. Libertad, Peñarol vs. Universidad Católica, and Chiapas vs. Cerro Porteño.

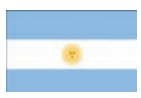
Rush for Copa Tickets

Tickets for the Copa América have sold rushedly this past week. Argentine Football Association says its team will play all three group matches in July's Copa America in front of full houses after 70,000 tickets for the host nation's games were snapped up just an hour after going on sale.

The Argentinean Football Association says tickets to watch the likes of Lionel Messi and their fellow countrymen were sold almost immediately after going on sale Thursday via internet.

Argentina opens the tournament on July 1st against **Bolivia** in La Plata, followed by games against **Colombia** on July 6 in Santa Fé and **Japan** five days later in Córdoba.

Argentina, currently coached by Sergio Batista, last won the South American championship in 1993. The team reached the final in the last two editions in 2004 and 2007 but lost to archrival Brazil.



ARGENTINA

Another highlight in Argentina will be this upcoming weekend when the country goes into a standstill. Boca Juniors will host River Plate at home in La Bombonera.

River Plate looks in a far better and comfortable position sitting in third place of the Clausura standings on the weekend with 22 points and only two behind leaders **Vélez Sarsfields** and **Godoy Cruz** who won on Friday night to **Newell's Old Boys.**

Boca Juniors meanwhile languish in 14th spot with 15 points and having only won four games in the regular season of 2011.

There will be all to play for in the super clásico, truly a spectacular event that will pulsate and stop a nation in its entirety as usual. There is far too much pride and honour at stake.

Maradona On The Money

In a country where legend **Diego Maradona** already has a religious movement that has reportedly 150,000 members, many including media are proposing an idea to put his mug on the country's money.

Chances are it probably won't happen though with football broadcast back a year on free-to-air in a bid to nationalise its most emblematic folkloric pastime, it is common to hear the name "Diego" as local slang for another word for the local currency worth of 10 pesos (the equivalent of $2 Australian).

In other words, Argentineans may be welcome to demoting current peso note occupant, liberator Manuel Belgrano who created the Argentinean flag and was instrumental to its Independence to the $2 Argentinean peso note. A World Cup winner perhaps means a lot more to its people. The heights football can do to a football-mad society.

CHILE

It has been all the rage last week about Argentinean Diego Rivarola, a legend at club Universidad de Chile. His 89th minute winning header in the clásico (derby) played to a near-capacity at the National stadium in Santiago further cemented him as a much-loved player amongst fans.

He has been however under scrutiny from coach Jorge Sampaoli, a fellow countryman who questions his match fitness at his age of 30.

Rivarola has shown his disappointment in the media quoting his coach as 'poorly professional' to not talk in private about his fitness.

"If I am only apt for 30 minutes of play then I should not play at all. It is contradictory because whenever I am called, I am up for the task as you can see with my winning header at such a significant moment of the match, against our arch-enemy Colo-Colo", he said last Friday.

About his future, Rivarola said he is "open to discuss about another horizon, about another club if that is what the coach is referring me to do".

CONMEBOL ELECTIONS

Finally, CONMEBOL went into elections last week which saw president Nicolás Léoz re-elected until 2015.

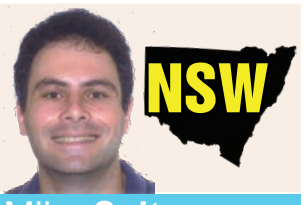
The Paraguayan delegate has had the position since 1986 whilst his delegation also got the nod to remain in power as representatives to FIFA with fellow Argentinean FA chief Julio Grondona and Brazilian chief of the CBF, Ricardo Teixeira.

This was briefed by a meeting in Asunción, the Paraguayan capital where football's delegates reunited as CONMEBOL faces its next four years of office term.

Invited guests also featured FIFA candidate and AFC president **Mohammed bin Hammam,** Spanish FA chief **Ángel María Villar** and several legends of the game who were honoured at the confederation's offices.

Those honoured featured names such as legendary goalkeeper **José Luis Chilavert**, ex-goalscorer Ivan Zamorano of Chile, former Venezuelan captain and goalkeeper **Rafael Dudamel**, Bolivian legendary play-maker **Marco Antonio Etcheverry**, Peruvian icon **Julio César Uribe** and successful coaches, Uruguayan **Oscar Washington Tabárez** who took his nation's side to fourth place last year in South Africa along with Colombian tactician **Francisco Maturana** for their legacy and services to the game.

Olympic Go Top After Bankstown Blitz



Mike Salter

A nil-all draw with second-placed Sydney United at Edensor Park was not enough to keep the Sutherland Sharks on top of the NSW Premier League,with free-scoring Sydney Olympic, who thumped Bankstown City 5-2 on Saturday evening, overtaking them. Details of that one can be found below.

Elsewhere, APIA posted a much-needed 2-0 home win over Parramatta FC, while Manly United also had a morale-boosting victory to cheer, as two Scott Balderson goals helped them to defeat the out-of-sorts Bonnyrigg White Eagles 3-2. A lone goal from Mark Picciolini saw the South Coast Wolves down Rockdale at Bicentennial Park, while Marconi drew 1-1 at home to Blacktown.

Bankstown City 2-5 Sydney Olympic

Peter Tsekenis's much-anticipated return to Jensen Park saw him preside over a massacre of his old club, with two ex-Bankstown players helping Olympic to an emphatic away win.

The early signs, however, were far less favourable for the former Bankstown player-coach. After a messy opening, Aman Hadid was released cleverly by Steve Liavas on the right, and shot powerfully home after turning another Jensen alumnus in Brett Studman. Only a few minutes later, Hadid teed up the hard-running Shannon Burgin for an angled shot which flashed just wide.

Olympic were quickly level. Following a half-chance for Freddie Graham, a length-of-the-field run from former Newcastle Jet Chris Triantis ended with an excellent cross to the far post, which allowed Robbie Mileski to head home past his erstwhile teammate Zlatko Joseski. A bitter blow for the Jensen faithful.

Triantis was centrally involved again on the half-hour, with a cut-back to fellow midfielder Phil Makrys, whose shot was tipped over by Joseski. And five minutes later, it was Triantis who put Olympic ahead with a stunning goal, thundering a half-volley on the turn past Joseski.

Olympic were on the front foot for the remainder of the half, but to the general surprise the hosts levelled matters in first half injury-time. A free kick from Peter Peralta was not cleared effectively by the Olympic defence, and the ball broke to defender Blagoje Dejanovic, who prodded the ball home.

The initiative was still with the away side, however, and after only five minutes of the second period the Olympic lead was restored. This time it was big defender Richard Luksic who put one past his old club, heading home a free kick from the ubiquitous Triantis.

The goals just kept coming. This time taking a corner from the left, Triantis found Jerry Kalouris on the edge of the area, and the full-back's fizzing low shot evaded everyone, including Joseski, to bury itself in the net.

It was clearly game over, and Bankstown's attempts in the final stage of the game were little more than token ones. Burgin, perpetual motion personified, managed to tee up Nick Ristevski for a shot on the left after 73 minutes, but Paul Henderson was able to save. Thirteen long minutes later, Joseski himself tried his luck with a free kick from just within the Olympic half, which came surprisingly close to looping into the net.

Olympic added insult to injury in added time, when Makrys was fouled on the edge of the area by the last man Dejanovic, who was duly sent off. Mileski took the free kick, and curled it over the wall and into the top corner for Olympic's fifth. A proud night for Tsekenis's men.

Marconi's Adel Eljamal (5) scores a late goal to level the scores against Blacktown City after Travis Major opened the scoring from the spot. Photo: CARLOS FURTADO/Courtesy FNSW

NSW Results

NSW PREMIER LEAGUE: ROUND 7:
FIRST GRADE:
Bankstown City FC 2 (Aman Hadid 14m Blaz Dejanovic 45m) Sydney Olympic 5 (Robert Mileski 18/92m Chris Triantis 35m Richard Luksic 50m Jerry Kalouris 57m), APIA Leichhardt Tigers 2 (Robert Younis 8m David D'Apuzzo 56m) Parramatta FC 0, Rockdale City Suns 0 South Coast Wolves 1 (Mark Picciolini 43m), Manly United FC 3 (Scott Balderson 34/36m Adam Foti 71m) Bonnyrigg White Eagles 2 (Nathan Elasi 8m Jamie McMaster 50m), Marconi Stallions 1 (Adel Eljamal 83m) Blacktown City FC 1 (Travis Major 71m pen), Sydney United 0 Sutherland Sharks 0.

GRADE 20:
Bankstown City FC 0 Sydney Olympic 3, APIA Leichhardt Tigers 6 Parramatta FC 5. GRADE 18: Bankstown City FC 2 Sydney Olympic 2, APIA Leichhardt Tigers 0 Parramatta FC 1, Rockdale City Suns 1 South Coast Wolves 0, Manly United FC 5 Bonnyrigg White Eagles 0, Marconi Stallions 3 Blacktown City FC 2, Sydney United 1 Sutherland Sharks 2.

Next Round

Bonnyrigg WE vs Sth Coast Wolves
7PM Sat 14/May Bonnyrigg Sports Club

Sutherland Sharks vs Marconi Stallion
7:00 PM Sat 14/May Seymour Shaw Park

APIA Leichhardt Tigers vs Manly United
3:00 PM Sun 15/May Lambert Park

Blacktown City vs Rockdale City Suns
3:00 PM Sun 15/May Lily Homes

Parramatta FC vs Bankstown City
3:00 PM Sun 15/May Melita Stadium

Sydney United vs Sydney Olympic
4PM Sun 15/May Syd Utd Sports Centre

Standings

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
1 Sydney Olympic	7	5	1	1	16	6	10	16
2 Sutherland Sharks	7	4	0	3	10	6	4	15
3 Sydney United	7	4	1	2	14	6	8	14
4 Marconi Stallions	7	2	2	3	7	6	1	9
5 APIA Leichhardt	7	2	2	3	10	11	-1	9
6 South Coast W	7	3	4	0	7	11	-4	9
7 Blacktown City	7	2	3	2	9	9	0	8
8 Manly United FC	6	1	1	4	10	10	0	7
9 Bonnyrigg WE	7	1	2	4	8	9	-1	7
10 Bankstown City	7	2	4	1	8	14	-6	7
11 Rockdale City	7	2	4	1	5	11	-6	7
12 Parramatta FC	6	0	4	2	4	9	-5	2

Stars Come Out At Perry Park

Jarrod Ellis

With former Brisbane Strikers Matt McKay, Shane Stefanutto and Matt Smith bringing along the Brisbane Roar's A-League silverware to Perry Park on a promotional 'meet the fans' night, the Strikers would have been hoping for a vintage performance in their match against Gold Coast Stars.

The Strikers had been out of QSL action for three weeks thanks to the Easter holiday and last week's bye, but were in hot form prior to that and kept things bubbling away nicely with a 4-0 win over Brisbane Premier League side Capalaba Bulldogs last Saturday.

In contrast Gold Coast have had a rough time over their past two matches, recording losses against Sunshine Coast and Whitsunday Miners.

The Stars however had the better start to the match, Matt Hilton and Lewis Marsh both forcing Strikers keeper Brendan White into impressive saves in the opening few minutes.

Brisbane looked a little slow and ponderous going forward, the absence of Matt Thurtell looked to have a clear impact on their attacking play as Chris Di Sipio and Dylan Goodman struggled to find an understanding.

The home side did gradually impose themselves on the visitors, Brisbane's midfield proving their ability to keep the ball and Gold Coast could do little but wait for an opposition mistake for long periods as the half wore on.

Despite dominating possession Brisbane weren't able to find a way through the Gold Coast defence, repeatedly having to settle for shots from distance that did little to trouble David Chambers.

At the half the scores were still deadlocked and in truth neither side looked certain of finding a breakthrough.

When the sides returned it was more of the same, Brisbane holding the ball and Gold Coast looking to pounce on any mistake and strike on the counter.

It was the counter method of Gold Coast the eventually proved decisive. In the 56th minute the visitors broke-up a Brisbane attack, breaking forward at pace before Nik Felizatto set up Dean Smith for a shot that had White beaten but was blocked on the line. From there pandemonium ensued in the box, Gold Coast having several shots blocked before finally Tyson Jaegar put the ball in the net.

From there on it was all the home side, Brisbane completely dominated the play as they sought an equaliser but Gold Coast held firm against wave after wave of Brisbane attacks.

When the final whistle sounded the scoreboard still read 1-0 and the Gold Coast players could celebrate their first every victory over Brisbane Strikers.

Also on Saturday night perennial cellar dwellers Capricorn Cougars and Bundaberg Spirit faced off at Jardine Park, the home side looking to make amends for the 14-1 mauling they suffered at the hands of Sunshine Coast last week.

However there was only more pain in store for the Cougars as Shane Youngberry struck twice in the first half to have Bundaberg 2-0 up and looking at their first win of the season. Josh Brillante added a third before the Cougars finally found their growl, pulling two goals back in the space of fifteen minutes but it was too little too late and the Spirit now sit above the Cougars on the QSL ladder.

Up north it was once again time for the NQ Derby, FNQ Bulls and NQ Razorbacks playing in what is one of, if not the most eagerly anticipated of QSL matchups.

At Borzi Park in front of their supporters the Bulls would have been quietly confident of getting a win against their rivals and three points looked on the cards early on as Joe Rusch found a way through the Razorbacks defence in only the third minute to give his side the lead.

There was more than just points at stake in this match though and the Razorbacks fought back, deservedly finding an equaliser just before the half courtesy of Jake Navarro.

The second half proved to be a tighter affair as neither side were able to find a winner, the draw doing little for either side's league position, the Razorbacks sitting in third place whilst the Bulls are one point out of finals contention in sixth.

Stuart Dunn of the FNQ Bulls gets in front of his NQ Razorbacks opponent. Meanwhile locals fans bring a touch of the Serie A to the local derby. Photos: JIM HATCHMAN . INSET: Shaun Blackman (Fire) & Jamie Hatch (Miners) do battle. Photo: ROBYN WOODALL

Queensland Results

Brisbane Strikers 0
Gold Coast Stars 1 (Jaeger 56)

FNQ Bulls 1 (Rusch 3)
NQ Razorbacks 1 (Navaro 39)

Capricorn Cougars 2 (Hickey 73, Sauer 88 pen)

Bundaberg Spirit 3 (Youngberry 33,41, Brillante 69)

Sunshine Coast Fire 1 (Holmes 94 pen)
Whitsunday Miners 1 (White 87

Next Round

Bundaberg Spirit v Sunshine Coast FC
14-May 7:00pm

NQ Razorbacks v Capricorn Cougars
14-May 7:00pm

Whitsunday Miners v Brisbane Strikers
14-May 7:00pm

Gold Coast Stars v QAS
15-May 2:00pm

FNQ Bulls v BYE

Standings

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
1 Sunshine Coast FC	8	6	2	0	29	4	25	20
2 Brisbane Strikers	6	4	0	2	18	7	11	12
3 NQ Razorbacks	8	3	2	3	15	11	4	11
4 Gold Coast Stars	6	3	1	2	9	9	0	10
5 Qld AoS	6	2	3	1	12	8	4	9
6 FNQ Bulls	6	2	3	1	11	8	3	9
7 Whitsunday Miners	6	1	4	1	8	10	-2	7
8 Southern Cross Utd	5	1	1	3	8	12	-4	4
9 Bundaberg Spirit	6	1	1	4	7	21	-14	4
10 Capricorn Cougars	7	0	1	6	7	34	-27	1

New coaches unable to help in Tassie

Walter Pless

Two coaches have been sacked and two replacements appointed in the Forestry Tasmania Southern Premier League competition in the past few weeks, but neither has been able to change the fortunes of the clubs involved.

Olympia Warriors sacked coach Chris Hey a month ago and appointed Franco Previdi as his replacement, but the club has slumped to its third consecutive league defeat this weekend, going down 2-1 to traditional rival Tilford Zebras at KGV Park on Friday night.

Olympia are now last in the 8-team competition and have just one win and a draw from their nine outings.

Glenorchy Knights dismissed coach Nick Harrison last Monday, a day after the club recorded their first league win of the season, a 3-2 triumph over newly promoted Beachside away at Sandown Park, and moved off the foot of the ladder.

Harrison's replacement, 52-year-old Ahmed Abdaltam, who once played for AEK Athens and South Melbourne Hellas, lost his first game in charge when Knights went down 6-2 to reigning champions and current leaders South Hobart at KGV Park on Saturday night.

New Town Eagles moved into second place with a 3-1 home win over fifth-ranked Kingborough Lions United at Clare Street on Saturday.

Olympia took the lead against Zebras when Adam Hedge scored in the 28th minute.

Zebras spurned the chance to draw level when Dwayne Walsh had his penalty saved in the 32nd minute by Michael McKenna.

Three minutes later, Zebras were awarded another penalty when Tony Dzelalija bundled over Walsh and this time Jonathon Ladic made no mistake with his spot-kick to make it 1-1.

On the stroke of half-time, Walsh gave Zebras the lead when he ran on to a perfect through-ball from Luke Cripps and fired home off the far right-hand post, the ball ricocheting across goal and inside the opposite post.

Neither side was able to add to its tally in the second period and Olympia must bear the embarrassment of occupying last place for at least another week.

The Knights looked determined against South Hobart, with Corey Smith and Tom Sherman sharp in attack, but it took South Hobart only 9 minutes to hit the front when Andy Brennan headed home a left-wing cross from Kostas Kanakaris.

It took until the 29th minute for South Hobart to score their second, Kankaris again being at the heart of the move and Brayden Mann finishing off a far-post volley by Shae Hickey.

The Knights' French midfielder, Matthieu Gregoire, pulled a goal back in the 35th minute to make it 2-1 for the visitors at the interval.

Kingborough's Wesley Herweynen (left) battles with Eagles' Jeung-Sun Jo for possession. Photos: WALTER PLESS

Ten minutes after the resumption, central defender Hugh Ludford picked out Kanakaris on the left and his cross was turned in by Brennan for his second goal of the game and South Hobart's third.

Substitute Luke Huigsloot made it 4-1 in the 58th minute with virtually his first touch of the match, heading home Ludford's cross from the left after Kankaris's corner.

A minute later, Knights keeper Ben Peter produced a fine save to deny South Hobart's Frenchman, Loic Feral.

Knights substitute Callen Griffin netted a superb goal in the 69th minute, shooting home from 30 metres after Gregoire had laid the ball into his path from Brendan Garth's cross, to make it two goals the difference.

But, Kanakaris capped a fine performance by restoring south Hobart's three-goal buffer in the 78th minute when he fired inside the far post from an acute angle on the left.

Two minutes into stoppage time, substitute Jonathon Lo made it 6-2 when he knocked in Brennan's cross from the right.

Three goals in a 6-minute spell midway through the opening half by New Town Eagles destroyed Kingborough Lions United.

Adam McKeown hit the first in the 26th minute, while an own-goal by Lions captain Marcello Marchioli a minute later made it 2-0.

Eagles' Korean import, Seong-Sun Jo, who had rattled the crossbar with a free-kick in the 19th minute, made it 3-0 in the 31st minute from Ben Whitehall's pass,

The Lions revived somewhat in the second half and reduced the arrears five minutes after the interval through Ryan Bevan, but they were unable to make up the leeway.

In the Forestry Tasmania Northern Premier League, Devonport City won the North-West Coast derby by downing the visiting Ulverstone 5-2 at Valley Road through goals by McGinn, Mulraney, McKenna, Douce and Chilcott. Ulverstone hit back through an own-goal and a strike by Kyle Baldock.

Leaders Northern Rangers made light work of the visiting Somerset at the NTCA Ground, winning 5-0 through strikes by Adrian Beard, Patrick Lanau-Atkinson, Derek Schipper, Scott Murray and a penalty by keeper Marshall Pooley.

Launceston City downed Burnie United 4-2 at home at Mitsubishi Park.

Southern Division

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
South Hobart FC	8	6	2	0	25	9	20
Clarence United	8	5	2	1	16	15	17
New Town Eagles	8	4	3	1	16	11	15
Tilford Zebras	7	2	3	2	18	14	9
Kingborough Lions	8	3	0	5	15	20	9
Glenorchy Knights	8	1	3	4	13	20	6
Beachside FC	7	1	2	4	9	13	5
Olympia FC	8	1	1	6	14	24	4

Forestry Tasmania Results

Southern Premier League
Tilford Zebras 2 Olympia FC 1
New Town Eagles 3 Kingborough Lions 1
Glenorchy Knights 2 South Hobart FC 6
Beachside FC 1 Clarence United 3

Northern Premier League
Ulverstone2 Devonport City 5
Prospect Knights 2 Riverside Olympic0
Northern Rangers 5 Somerset 0
Launceston City 4 Burnie United 2

Next Round

Southern Premier League
Friday 13th May 2011
Tilford Zebras v Glenorchy Knights
KGV Park 08:00 PM

Saturday 14th May 2011
Clarence United v South Hobart FC
Wentworth Park 2 06:30 PM

Kingborough Lions v Olympia FC
Lightwood Park 02:30 PM

New Town Eagles v Beachside FC
Clare Street 02:30 PM

Northern Premier League
Ulverstone v Launceston City
Ulverstone Showgrounds 02:30 PM

Prospect Knights v Launceston United
Prospect Park 02:30 PM

Somerset v Burnie United
Cardigan Street 02:30 PM

Riverside Olympic v Devonport City
Windsor Park 02:30 PM

Northern Rangers v Bye

Northern Division

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Northern Rangers	6	4	1	1	13	6	13
Ulverstone	5	3	1	1	14	6	10
Riverside Olympic	5	3	1	1	13	9	10
Prospect Knights	5	3	1	1	9	5	10
Devonport City	5	3	0	2	11	12	9
Launceston City	5	2	2	1	9	6	8
Somerset	6	2	0	4	10	12	6
Burnie United	5	1	0	4	5	13	3
Launceston United	6	0	0	6	11	26	0

Trimboli celebrates 400th with Cup win

Nat Adamopoulos

It's not everyday you get to witness history in the making but today was one of those days where many watched a well seasoned player reach a huge milestone in his football career….knotching up his 400th senior game. The momentous occasion for Campbelltown City player coach Jason Trimboli was capped off with an away 1:0 L J Hooker Cup win against east town rivals MetroStars, the lone goal scored by Oliver Totani late in the second half.

The Red Devils came out firing, looking for the early lead. After Matt Deegan was brought down by MetroStars defender Dave Menechella in the 4th minute, Totani stepped up to take a quick flick over the Stars back wall and find the back of the net only for the kick to be brought back and retaken on Referee Curtis Wordsworth's whistle, the second take scooped up by keeper Daniel Godley.

Deegan was again the hunted a minute later, Menechella's sliding tackle on the fast midfielder receiving an official warning from the man in black. It was becoming obvious that the danger for MetroStars defence was to contain the dynamic duo of Deegan and Totani, their speed and vigour hard to stop. MetroStars found their way into attack with some good forward movement by Scott Tunbridge and Jackson Groves, with Steven Grelli getting in amongst the action.

But the Red Devils keeper Les Pogliacomi showed his experience, having no trouble with any shots that came his way. Midway through the second half Campbelltown had an opportunity, after Captain Michael D'Aloisio released from the back to 400th gamer Trimboli, his chip in finding the feet of the speedster Totani but the move anticipated by Metros defence.

Jason Trimboli holds the LJ Hooker Commercial Cup with Campbelltown City. Photo: ADAM BUTLER

As the first half was coming to a close tempers flared as Deegan was targeted again by the Menechella brothers down the left wing and what resulted was a 3 minute melle between both sides. As fellow players Totani and Vas Parhas came in to protect Deegan, the physicality came to a crescendo with arms and legs flying in all directions.

After the minutes of jousting the game was finally brought back to order by the young referee Wordsworth with David Menechella coming off the villain with a red card given for retaliation putting his game to an end. A subsequent yellow card was also presented to Parhas for his part in the foray while other participants could think themselves very lucky indeed to come away unscathed after the fraquar.

With the commencement of the second half MetroStars Jackson Groves took the place of the ousted Menechella, providing some great chances for his forwards, one of which was a great lay off to Aaron Goulding, the shot sending Pogliacomi into a diving tip off to prevent the score. No surprise when Deegan was yet again targeted moments later, this time brought down by Groves near the box. Totani stepped up to take the shot which was deflected out for Campbelltown but the rebound in going high over the cross bar.

The dangerous duo were persistent with continual runs up front putting the Metros defence to task. Trimboli added more grunt to his side with his first change 15minutes into the second half taking young Raf Frisina off for tough man Joe Wright.

But it was Trimboli himself being the tough guy, earning a yellow card for his pushing foul on Groves bringing the lad down. A relatively quiet game for Michael Matricciani saw David Terminello taking him off in the 71st minute for the gazelle James Yong for some hopeful goal mouth action but Trimboli counter substituted with Kosta Mantis on for Toby Nelson. At this stage the Red Devil's keeper Pogliacomi was bombing the ball long to the heavily featured Totani and Deegan up front, the duo eventually breaking the deadlock in the 73rd minute. Starting from the back Michael Constantinos passed off to Mantis, who followed through to Wright, cleverly threading the ball through the Metro defence for Totani to get onto and slip past the gloves of Godley, the thump-sucking celebration evident of the delight for the striker.

Another tackle on bruised and battered Deegan earned Daniel Menechella a yellow card in the 75th minute, Trimboli unlucky not to score from the free kick the shot hitting the far post. Just moments later Totani narrowly missed getting his second blasting a shot wide of goal while MetroStars captain Lee Robertson copped a yellow with his wayward tackle.

Cards were flying left right and centre, Totani receiving his for time wasting and being subbed off for Stephen Piotto as the game was closing in. Robertson then had the opportunity to go from villain to hero with his shot, a glancing header that couldn't be directed into the back of the net with 3 minutes to go.

With that Menechella got his marching orders four minutes into injury time with his cracking tackle on Trimboli taking the total number of fouls for MetroStars to 16 for the match. As the final whistle blew it was a grand finish to a very physical match, Trimboli celebrating his 400th game with a win and the Campbelltown City Red Devils putting both hands on the LJ Hooker Cup.

Games from around the grounds for Round 6 saw Western Strikers show the Croydon Kings its hard to win at Carnegie Reserve, the homeside defeating the fellow western suburbs side 2:1. Calvin Mbarga scoring a brace for the Strikers and young Andrew Harous getting the single goal for the Kings.

At the Croatian Sports Centre the Raiders again took a loss at the hands of Adelaide City to the tune of 1:3, coach John Kosmina asking himself what can he do to get a win after sitting on 1 draw and 5 losses after the 6 rounds. Goal scorers were Shannon Claridge for the Raiders and Nicky Orr, Ricardo Da Silva and Pat De Ruvo for City.

The two night games saw Galaxy and Adelaide Blue Eagles in a 2-all draw at Con Makris Park, Steve DeGiovanniello and Kodi Madeley booting in for Galaxy and Christopher Atsikbasis and staunch defender Dean Kenrick scoring for the Blue Eagles.

And a win at last for Modbury Jets with their away 2:1 success against the Para Hills Knights at The Paddocks and hopefully the turn around coach Earl Pudler is looking for.

Standings

	P	W	D	L	For	Ag	GD	Pts
1 Adelaide City	6	6	0	0	20	3	17	18
2 Adelaide Galaxy	6	4	2	0	12	4	8	14
3 Metro Stars	6	3	1	2	14	5	9	10
4 Western Strikers	6	3	0	3	9	7	2	9
5 Adelaide BE	6	2	2	2	7	8	-1	8
6 Croydon	6	2	2	2	6	7	-1	8
7 Campbelltown	6	2	2	2	6	7	-1	8
8 Para Hills	6	1	1	4	4	11	-7	4
9 Modbury	6	1	1	4	4	23	-19	4
10 Raiders	6	0	1	5	5	12	-7	1

FFSA Results

Cumberland 0 vs Playford City 0 (HT0-0)
Best – Cumberland: Dan Carter, Roby Lippett, Neil Young; Playford: Craig McDevitt, Ryan Dingle, Matthew Gaston
Reserves – Cumberland 3 v Playford 2
U19 – Cumberland 2 v Playford 2

Pirates 3 (Michael Markham, James Skeffington, Rhys Crampton) vs Noarlunga 0 (HT 2-0)
Best: Pirates: Kieran McFadyen, James Skeffington, Nick Marvromatsis; Noarlunga: Peter Ritchie, Fraser McLean, Keith Caine
Reserves – Pirates 2 v Noarlunga 0
U19 – Pirates 7 v Noarlunga 1

Enfield City 2 (Mark Graham, Yamin Jamal) vs Adelaide Cobras 1 (Paul Tsoukalas) (HT 0-0)
Best – Enfield City: Mark Graham, Joe Lagana, Sam Lennon; Adelaide Cobras: Dion Lambrinos, Paul Karritevlis, Paul Tsoukalas
Reserves – Enfield City 3 v Adelaide Cobras 2
U19 – Enfield City 3 v Adelaide Cobras 2

Adelaide Comets 1 (Elias Demourtzidis) vs White City 1 (Michael Keane) (HT 0-0)
Best – Adelaide Comets: Stephen Warner, Keegan Nash, Peter Eleftherakis; White City: Stefan Kalinovic, Andrej Rastovac, Michael Keane,
Reserves – Adelaide Comets 4 v White City 1
U19 – Adelaide Comets 6 v White City 2

Adelaide Hills 2 (Charlie Bowman, Sam Bowman) vs Adelaide Olympic 3 (Marc Talbot, Saranti Parissos, Jai Pullinen) (HT 0-0)
Best – Adelaide Hills: Charlie Bowman, Nathan Elliot, Simon Wegener; Adelaide Olympic: Stav Parissos, Saranti Parissos
Reserves – Adelaide Hills 0 v Adelaide Olympic 3
U19 – Adelaide Hills 1 v Adelaide Olympic 2

Adelaide Galaxy 2 Steve De Giovanniello, Kodi Madeley vs Adelaide Blue Eagles 2 Christopher Atsikbasis, Dean Kenrick (HT 1-1)
Best – Adelaide Galaxy: Scott Nagel, Tom Briscoe, Scott Weidenbach - Adelaide Blue Eagles - , Fortunato Filletti, Dean Kendrick, Nick Bucco
Reserves-Adelaide Galaxy 1 vs Adelaide Blue Eagles 1
U19 - Adelaide Galaxy 3 vs Adelaide Blue Eagles 5

Para Hills 0 vs Modbury 2 Rhys Devlin 2 (HT 0-1)
Best – Para Hills - David Bounds, Jordan Elsey, Shane Tobias - Modbury - Todd McSorley, Rhys Devlin, Dan Elekwachi
Reserves – Para Hills 2 v Modbury 2
U19 – Para Hills 3 v Modbury 2

Next Round

Modbury vs Raiders
Jet Park 7:45 PM Fri 13/May

Adelaide BE vs Western Strikers
Marden Sports Complex 3PM Sat 14/May

Campbelltown vs Croydon Kings
Steve Woodcock Spts Ctre 3PM Sat 14/May

Metro Stars vs Para Hills
TK Shutter Reserve 3:00 PM Sat 14/May

Adelaide City vs Adelaide Galaxy
Adelaide City Park 7:30 PM Mon 16/May

Perth Implode

WA

Ashley Morrison

When top teams meet the team that makes the least mistakes usually comes out on top, and Perth only have themselves to blame for losing this game against arch rivals Balcatta.

The visitors, Balcatta, from the kick off had more desire for the ball, showed better movement and more imagination, and simply made less mistakes.

The first goal came in the ninth minute, Shaun Kilkelly in defence for Perth let the ball bounce in his penalty area, Jason Barrera pounced, getting his body between Kilkelly and the ball, he showed great skill to get past the defender on the byline and squared to the unmarked Steve Burton. The ball struck the striker's heel as he tried to side-foot home and rebounded to Barrera, who tapped the ball home himself.

Perth had a chance to equalize in the 17th minute from a well taken Sharland free kick, but Lewis Italiano in goal for Balcatta tipped his effort around the post.

Barrera then had Spence at full stretch at the other end of the park when he skipped inside Dom De Felice and advanced to the edge of the box, he unleashed a powerful low shot that Spence failed to reach, which clipped the outside of his left-hand post.

Three minutes later and Balcatta felt that Spence should have been given his marching orders. A wonderful ball over the top saw Burton through down the left, but he was running away from goal, outside the box when Spence brought him down, and the 'keeper had two covering defenders behind him, so he received a yellow card. Burton struck the free kick into the side netting.

In the 40th minute Balcatta stretched their lead. Spence failed to hold the ball from a corner. A scramble ensued to avert the danger and Kilkelly pushed Ashley Rosindale in the back as he shaped to shoot, the referee pointed to the spot. Up stepped Burton who struck the ball firmly to Spence's right, the young keeper at full stretch managed to get a hand on the ball and prevent it crossing the line. Perth's celebrations were short lived, as the referee's assistant – former Preston Macedonia Goalkeeper Phil Trianides – indicated that Spence had come off his line and the penalty should be re-taken; thereby losing his membership to the goalkeeper's union. The penalty was re-taken and this time Spence was a spectator as Burton hammered it to his left.

In injury time Perth found a lifeline and again it came from a mistake, Italiano spilled the ball in a challenge with Robbie Sciascia and Sharland squared to Onoforo at the edge of the box. The Perth number nine did superbly to lift his shot into the roof of the net with two defenders on the line.

Balcatta came out for the second half and were again the more lively, Burton was soon in behind the Perth defence and pulled the ball back to Barrera who was only prevented a goal by another outstanding save from Spence.

Balcatta midfielder Moe Atak and Perth SC striker Greg Sharland in action in the top of the table clash at Dorrien Gardens. Photo: PETER SIMCOX

The 68th minute saw Perth given the prefect chance to come back into the game when Balcatta were reduced to ten men. Jovo Pavlovic rising to the taunts of Onoforo, and striking him behind play, which was spotted by the referee's assistant.

Perth made changes hoping give their side a spark, but they were far too pedestrian in their transition and Balcatta were never truly stretched.

In the 74th minute Dean Applegren gave up cheap possession inside his penalty area to Burton. The Englishman, skipped past him, and drew Kilkelly before sliding the ball across the face of goal for Daniel Micevski to lift into the roof of the net, 1-3 to Balcatta.

The humiliation was completed in the 82nd minute, a mix up in defence under no pressure saw Kilkelly miscontrol the ball. Rosindale pounced and outpaced the recovering defence, drew Spence and unselfishly squared to Burton who rolled the ball home.

On this display Balcatta deservedly sitting on top of the league. Perth however are a team of ageing champions in desperate need of a youthful spark.

In other games a bizarre encounter at Inglewood United saw them come back from 2-0 down thanks to the sending off of the Cockburn goalkeeper to win 7-4, Rory Grant grabbing a hat-trick. Inglewood has now scored 15 goals in their last three games and has moved up to third on the ladder. Not the best of starts for new coach Adrian Webster and a result that sees them rooted to the bottom of the league.

Armadale put themselves in trouble with an own goal but fought back to equalise before former player Ryan Pearson scored in the 62nd minute to steal all three points for Sorrento. ECU Joondalup were back to winning ways with a 3-2 victory at home to Floreat Athena. The Western Knights who have had a dreadful two weeks were also back to winning ways with a 1-0 win away at Bayswater City. Stirling Lions defeated the NTC 3-0 for no points.

All Flags WA Results

First Team

Inglewood Utd 7 (Clarke 46, Grant 53, 77, 90+4, Caceres 50p, OG 69, Ilanoski 75) Cockburn City 4 (Feely 18, 90+4, Grigo 22, Mirco 72); Armadale 1 (Diamond 43) Sorrento 2 (OG 29, Pearson 62); Perth SC 1 (Onoforo 46) Balcatta 4 (Barrera 9, Micevski 74, Burton 40, 82); ECU Joondalup 3 (Platt 18, Anderson 53, Stynes 74) Floreat Athena 2 (O'Connell 37, Isaia 89); Bayswater City 0 Western Knights 1 (Montgomery 84p); Stirling Lions 3 (Evans 10, Skorich 33, OG 81) NTC 0.

Reserves

Inglewood Utd 9 Cockburn City 0; Armadale 1 Sorrento 5; Perth SC 1 Balcatta 1; ECU Joondalup 1 Floreat Athena 0; Bayswater City 1 Western Knights 1; Stirling Lions 3 NTC 3.

Under 18's

Inglewood Utd 1 Cockburn City 4; Armadale 0 Sorrento 1; Perth SC 5 Balcatta 2; ECU Joondalup 3 Floreat Athena 2; Bayswater City 1 Western Knights 1; Stirling Lions 1 NTC 0.

Next Round

Cockburn City v Perth SC
Dalmatinac Park 3:00 PM Sat 14/May
Bayswater City v Inglewood United
Frank Drago Res 3:00 PM Sat 14/May
Mandurah City v NTC
Hyundai Stadium 3:00 PM Sat 14/May
Western Knights v Armadale SC
Nash Field 3:00 PM Sat 14/May
Sorrento FC v Balcatta SC
Percy Doyle Reserve 3:00 PM Sat 14/May
Floreat Athena FC v Stirling Lions
E&D Litis Stadium 3:00 PM Sun 15/May
BYE v ECU Joondalup

All Flags WA Premier League

	P	W	D	L	For	Ag	GD	Pts
1 Balcatta	09	8	0	1	27	9	18	24
2 Perth SC	09	6	1	2	21	11	10	19
3 Inglewood United	09	6	0	3	28	17	11	18
4 Western Knights	09	5	2	2	14	13	1	17
5 Sorrento	09	5	1	3	15	13	2	16
6 ECU Joondalup	11	4	2	5	13	21	-8	14
7 Mandurah City	10	3	2	5	9	11	-2	11
8 Stirling Lions	09	3	2	4	14	17	-3	11
9 Bayswater City	10	3	2	5	15	19	-4	11
10 Floreat Athena	09	2	2	5	13	17	-4	8
11 Armadale	09	2	1	6	9	16	-7	7
12 Cockburn City	09	1	1	7	11	25	-14	4

Six Goal Shield Adds Bite To Panthers

ACT

Russ Gibbs

Mark Shields netted a double hat-trick as Monaro Panthers finally found their goal scoring teeth as they heaped further misery on Goulburn Strikers by winning 12-0 at Cookbundoon on Saturday afternoon. After a heavy loss to Canberra FC on the opening day this task was always likely to be tricky for the Strikers but, to their credit, they held the Panthers at bay and were only trailing 4-0 before the scoreboard blew out with eight goals in the last sixteen minutes.

Shields' was at the forefront of most of the Panthers attacking moves bagging a brace before half-time and completing his hat-trick four minutes after the resumption. By that stage Cyffin Evans had also scored as the Panthers asserted their dominance. The final sixteen minutes though saw Goulburn run out of steam as goals flew in at regular intervals.

Shields added three more to his tally to take him to six for the day, whilst Geoff Howarth notched a double, one from the penalty spot, and there was one goal each for Daniel Colbertaldo, Scott Jones and Jake Stein.

At Woden Park Woden Valley were triumphant in the South-side derby running out convincing 4-0 winners over Tuggeranong United. Woden really should have been at least a goal up inside the opening quarter with Micah Johnson striking a post and Ben Pagett seeing a close range effort blocked by Alex Connell in the Tuggeranong goal as the home team turned the screw.

Youngster Mouad Zwed eventually broke the deadlock after 34 minutes flicking a through ball past the advancing Connell for a well-taken goal. The dismissal of defender Jamie Currie for two yellow cards, the first received for a foul which resulted in a penalty that Connell smartly saved from Tom Hirst, through United's shape and Woden took advantage in the second half.

A corner was flicked past his own keeper by the unfortunate Stuart Lacey before Connell fumbled a cross-shot from Alex Oloriegbe into his own net. A late fourth from Hector Alamos gave the score line a realistic look as Tuggeranong were outplayed by their cross-town rivals.

ACT action from the ROCK Premier League. Photos: NICK GUOTH

Canberra FC continues to lead the way at the top of the ladder after seeing off Canberra City 4-2 in an exciting match at Hawker Football Centre. The champions had to wait until the second half to break the deadlock with Josip Jadric and Aidan Brunskill giving them a 2-0 lead. Paul Ivanic made it three before Nikola Taneski pulled one back for City. Ivanic made it 4-1 a little later, but City had the last word when Misko Naumoski added his fourth of the season from the penalty spot.

At McKellar Park Belconnen United looked set for a second defeat of the season trailing 2-0 to a resurgent Cooma Tigers before turning the match on its head for a 4-2 victory. Goals from Alex Castro and Rayan Ouamara looked to have given the Blue Devils a mountain to climb, but climb it they did helped in some part by the dismissal of Tigers' Jordano San Martin. However, it was already 3-2 when San Martin received his marching orders as Steve Forshaw's team staged a remarkable comeback.

Goals from Dustin Wells and David Kemp drew the Blue Devils level before Wells edged them in front before a penalty, awarded for a foul by San Martin. A late goal from Danny Macor gave added gloss to the score line as Belconnen showed the character and determination required to take the points.

ACT Results

Monaro Panthers 12 (Mark Shields 9', 29', 49', 78', 83', 90', Cyffin Evans 34', Geoff Howarth 74' (pen), 79', Daniel Colbertaldo 82', Scott Jones 84', Jake Stein 87') Goulburn Strikers 0

Woden Valley 4 (Mouad Zwed 37', Stuart Lacey (own goal) 53', Alex Connell (own goal) 84', Hector Alamos 89') Tuggeranong United 0

Canberra FC 4 (Josip Jadric 51', Aidan Brunskill 53', Paul Ivanic 67', 82') Canberra City 2 (Nikola Taneski, Misko Naumoski (pen))

Belconnen United 4 (Dustin Wells (2, 1 pen), David Kemp, Danny Macor) Cooma Tigers 2 (Alex Castro, Rayan Ouamara)

Next Round

Canberra City v Monaro
Hawker Football Centre 4PM Sat 14/May

Goulburn Strikers v TUFC
Cookbundoon 1 3:00 PM Sun 15/May

Canberra FC v Belconnen United
Deakin Stadium 3:00 PM Sun 15/May

Cooma SC v Canberra Olympic
Nijong Oval 1 3:00 PM Sun 15/May

BYE v Woden Valley

ACT Standings

	P	W	D	L	For	Ag	GD	Pts
1 Canberra FC	2	2	0	0	23	2	+21	6
2 Woden Valley	2	2	0	0	6	1	+5	6
3 Monaro Panthers	2	1	0	1	13	2	+11	3
4 Canberra City	2	1	0	1	6	4	+2	3
5 Belconnen United	2	1	0	1	6	5	+1	3
6 Canberra Olympic	1	1	0	0	3	2	+1	3
7 Tuggeranong United	1	0	0	1	0	4	-4	0
8 Cooma Tigers	2	0	0	2	2	8	-6	0
9 Goulburn Strikers	2	0	0	2	0	31	-31	0

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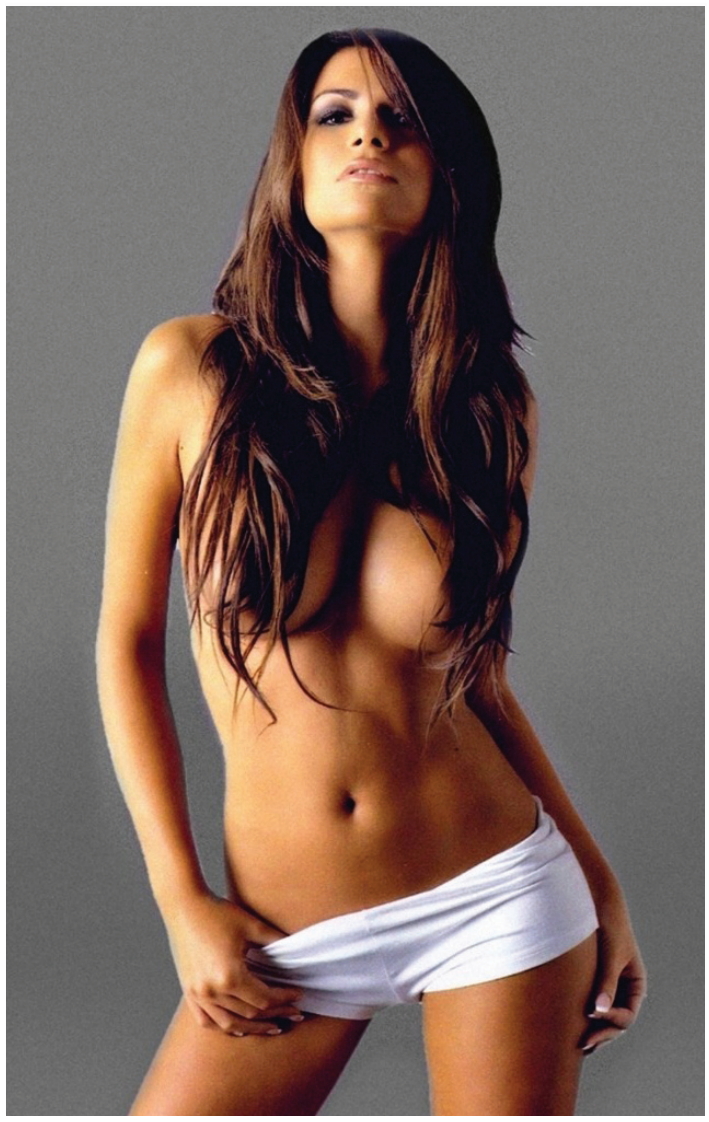

Alessia Ventura Age: 30
Scores with Fillipo Inzaghi (AC Milan)

Couch Potato Dept.

* ALL TIMES ARE AEST

SBS

SBS ONE

Monday 9th May
4:30 pm FIFA Futbol Mundial
11:30 pm The World Game

Saturday May 14th
10:30 PM *FA Cup Final 2011 Live from Wembley Stadium, London. Kick-off 12.00am.*

Sunday May 15th
10:30 AM *Football Asia*
11:00 AM *FA Cup Final 2011 - Manchester City v Stoke City. Highlights from Wembley Stadium, London.*

12:00 PM *UEFA Champions League Magazine Program - Highlights and news from the latest round of the UEFA Champions League.*

SBS TWO
Monday May 9th
09:30 PM *The World Game*

FOX SPORTS

PREMIER LEAGUE LIVE

Tue May 10 Fulham v Liverpool	4.55 am
Wed May 11 Manchester City v Tottenham	4.40 am
Sat May 14 Blackburn v Manchester United	9.40 pm
Sat May 14 Blackpool v Bolton	9.40 pmViewers Choice
Sat May 14 Sunderland v Wolves	9.40 pm Viewers Choice
Sat May 14 West Brom v Everton	9.40 pm Viewers Choice
Sun May 15 Chelsea v Newcastle	10.25 pm
Mon May 16 Arsenal v Aston Villa	12.55 am
Mon May 16 Liverpool v Tottenham	12.55 am
Mon May 16 Birmingham v Fulham	12.55 amViewers Choice
Mon May 16 Wigan v West Ham	12.55 amViewers Choice
Wed May 18 Manchester City v Stoke	4.40 am

ASIAN CHAMPIONS LEAGUE LIVE

Tue May 10 Kashima v Sydney FC	8.25 pm
Wed May 11 Jeju United v Melbourne	8.25 pm

ENGLISH FOOTBALL LEAGUE LIVE
Playoffs

Fri May 13 Championship: Semi-Final, Leg 1	4.30 am
Sat May 14 Championship: Semi-Final, Leg 1	4.30 am
Sat May 14 League One: Semi-Final, Leg 1	9.40 pm
Sun May 15 League Two: Semi-Final, Leg 1	2.30 am
Sun May 15 League One: Semi-Final, Leg 1	9.00 pm
Mon May 16 League Two: Semi-Final, Leg 1	3.30 am
Tue May 17 Championship: Semi-Final, Leg 2	4.30 am
Wed May 18 Championship: Semi-Final, Leg 2	4.30 am

one HD

Monday 09th May
01:00 pm Bundesliga Matchday 33: Bayer Leverkusen V Hamburg

Tuesday 10th May
04:00 am Bundesliga Weekly Highlights Matchday 33
05:00 am Serie A Match Of The Round
11:30 am Arsenal TV Stoke City V Arsenal
11:00 pm World Football News

Wednesday 11th May
01:30 am Serie A (Rpt) Matchday 36: Palermo V Bari
06:00 am The Serie A Highlights Show Matchday 36
06:30 am Bundesliga Weekly Highlights (Rpt) Matchday 33
07:30 am World Football News (Rpt)

Thursday 12th May
01:00 am Serie A (Rpt) Matchday 36: Udinese V Lazio
12:30 pm Liverpool TV Fulham V Liverpool

Friday 13th May
02:00 am Bundesliga (Rpt) Matchday 33: Bayer Leverkusen V Hamburg
04:00 am Bundesliga Weekly Highlights (Rpt) Matchday 33
05:00 am The Serie A Highlights Show (Rpt) Matchday 36
12:00 pm The Serie A Highlights Show (Rpt) Matchday 36

Sunday 15th May
02:00 am LIVE Serie A Matchday 37: Lazio V Genoa
06:00 am The Story Of The F.A Cup (Part 1)
11:10 pm LIVE Serie A Matchday 37: Chievo V Udinese

Monday 16th May
09:00 am The Story Of The F.A Cup (Part 2)

SETANTA SPORTS

Monday 2nd May
3am Serie A Fiorentina v Udinese Delay
4:40am Serie A Bari v Roma LIVE
8:30am Serie A Sampdoria v Brescia Delay
10:15am Portuguese Liga Vitoria Setubal v Porto Delay
3:30pm Serie A Parma v Palermo Delay
5:15pm Eredivisie FC Twente v Willem II Delay

Tuesday 3rd May
4:40am Serie A Lazio v Juventus LIVE
6:45am Serie A Catania v Cagliari Delay
12pm SPL St Mirren v Hamilton Delay
2:55pm J-League Urawa Reds v Yokohama F Marinos LIVE
5:15pm Serie A Cheivo v Lecce Delay

Wednesday 4th May
6:45am Blue Square Premier League Tamworth v Forest Green Delay
11:45am Copa Libertadores America v Santos LIVE

Thursday 5th May
2:55am SPL Inverness v Celtic LIVE
8:25am Copa Libertadores Internacional v Penarol LIVE
10:45am Copa Libertadores Cruziero v Once Caldos LIVE

Friday 6th May
4:30am Blue Square Premier League Wrexham v Luton LIVE
10:25am Copa Libertadores Cerro Porteno v Estudiantes LIVE

Saturday 7th May
1:45pm Blue Square Premier League Fleetwood v AFC Wimbledon Delay
3:55pm J-League Nagoya Grampus v Shimizu S-Pulse LIVE
9:10pm SPL Rangers v Hearts LIVE
11:25pm Bundesliga Werder Bremen v Dortmund LIVE

Sunday 8th May
4:40am Serie A Roma v AC Milan LIVE
6:45am Bundesliga St Pauli v Bayern Munich Delay
9:40pm SPL Kilmarnock v Celtic LIVE
11:45pm Serie A Inter v Fiorentina Delay

Monday 9th May
1:30am Serie A Cagliari v Cesena Delay
4:40am Serie A Genoa v Sampdoria LIVE
6:45am Serie A Lecce v Napoli Delay
8:30am Portuguese Liga Teams TBC Delay
10:15am Bundesliga Schalke v Mainz Delay
1:45pm Serie A Brescia v Catania Delay

Tuesday 10th May
4:40am Serie A Juventus v Chievo LIVE
10:15am Serie A Bologna v Parma Delay

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Every Wed 7pm

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Every Saturday 10.30am

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Compo claim could ruin Guler's career

SAIT Guler's career is in limbo and the 19-year-old plans to go to Professional Footballers Australia to take up his case.

The teenager faces a battle to maintain his deal with Turkish club Adanaspor which plays in the Bank Aysa League, the division directly below Super League and the big guns of the Turkish game.

He joined Adanaspor in January this year after gaining an international clearance and the 19-year-old played regularly in the reserves.

Everything seemed to be going smoothly and the club was pleased with his development but his situation changed dramatically once FFA contacted the club regarding training compensation for Guler's Aussie clubs.

"The Adanaspor president and the general manager spoke to me after a game and told me that FFA was demanding 132,000 euros and that if they didn't pay it they couldn't play me. At the time they said they might have to rip up my contract."

But Guler decided to return to Melbourne and deal with the clubs involved. So far he has arranged for his last club Frankston Pines and former clubs Noble Park, Dandenong City and Southern Stars to agree to sign waivers effectively giving up any right to compensation.

However, one club is yet to sign – Oakleigh Cannons. Back in 2009, Guler played one reserves game for Oakleigh and sat on the bench for the following reserves game. Shortly after he transferred to Pines.

But before everyone jumps up and down and thinks the worst of Oakleigh I understand that the club is in receipt of an email from FFA directing it not to sign any waiver and suggesting that to do so would breach FFA rules.

All this is hearsay but I believe my Oakleigh source and Guler is very understanding of the position Oakleigh finds itself in.

"I've been told that FFA is saying to Oakleigh that it can get around 30,000 euros in compensation and why would a club want to give that up," he said.

"But I just don't get this rule that everyone keeps telling me about but I can't find anywhere."

Hopefully PFA can unravel the red tape and make sense of Guler's situation because the last thing we would want is to see a young man denied the opportunity of realising a lifelong ambition of becoming a successful professional player.

By the way, the contract Guler signed with Adanaspor runs to 2015.

Death threats? Nah

MORNINGTON coach Adam Jamieson shrugged off claims that he had received death threats leading into Saturday night's peninsula derby against Frankston Pines at Monterey Reserve.

"You'd call them more like prank phone calls rather than death threats," he said after his team's 8–0 thumping of the home side.

"Me and Matt (Morris Thomas) received a fair few calls along the lines of don't come down to the Pines because you won't be walking out of the place and that sort of stuff. It was pretty much the same crap every time.

"Look it didn't overly worry me but I think it started to worry Matty but I've got to say that the way that the Pines committee handled it all was absolutely first class.

"Dianne (Morris-Thomas), the president, and her committee were fantastic and we just got on with the game."

Matt Morris Thomas had played with Pines since he was five years old and transferred to Mornington this year. It was a big decision for the 20-year-old as he'd grown up at Pines and his mother has been president of the club for the past few years.

But Saturday night was not a time for sympathy and the four Mornington goalscorers all were ex-Pines players.

Morris Thomas got one, Colin Stewart nabbed a hat-trick and Nick Waite and Stevie Vernon got two apiece.

Pines senior coach John Bruce has recently opened a restaurant so his assistant, Mark Pollard, stepped into the line of fire against Mornington.

"Basically they had thousands of games of senior football behind them. I would say that their average age would be closer to 30 and ours is 20 so there was a massive gap in experience," said Pollard.

Pollard had short stints with Airdrie and East Stirling in Scotland and also played junior football with Lanark, Lismahagow and Pollock.

The defender had a season with Doveton in 1989/90 and was full of praise for Mornington's display.

"They are the best side we've played this season. They'll get through the winter and the heavy grounds really well and they've got good depth in their squad."

One man who won't be part of Mornington's squad is Jamie Paterson who recently retired. Despite some crap posted on the soccer forum website he did not have a falling out with Jamieson and remains part of the club.

Mornington coach Adam Jamieson takes command in the dressing room back in his Frankston Pines days. Photo: DARRYL KENNEDY

Victorian youngster Jamie McLaren will play for Scotland Under 19s against Denmark this week. Photo: ANITA MILAS

MacLaren debuts for Scotland

TEENAGE Sunbury sensation Jamie MacLaren will play for Scotland against Denmark in two under-19 challenge matches this week.

The former VIS scholarship holder, who is contracted to Blackburn Rovers, will play the first of two away fixtures against the Danes at Gladsaxe Stadium in Gladsaxe tomorrow (Tuesday). The second game is at the Ballerup Idraetspark in Ballerup on Thursday.

Scotland youth team national coach Billy Stark first called MacLaren into a training camp at Largs in March and was impressed by the 17-year-old.

Since then MacLaren has continued to appear for both Blackburn's reserves and its academy side.

The reserves recently clinched the Barclays Reserves League Northern Group B championship but MacLaren will miss the northern reserves final, against Group A winner Manchester United, which will be played at Old Trafford this Wednesday night.

He will be available to face Man U in their Lancashire Senior Cup semi-final showdown on Friday 20 May.

The full Scotland squad to face Denmark is:

Goalkeepers – Jordan Archer (Tottenham Hotspur), Callum Barrett (Aston Villa), Robbie Thomson (Celtic).

Defenders – Lewis Toshney (Celtic), Darren Cole (Rangers), Clark Robertson (Aberdeen), Fraser Kerr (Birmingham City), Nicholas Devlin (Dumbarton), Kyle McAusland (Rangers).

Midfielders – Callum Tapping (Tottenham Hotspur), Liam Caddis (St Johnstone), Jason Holt (Heart of Midlothian), Callum McGregor (Celtic), Cameron Park (Middlesbrough), David Hopkirk (Hamilton Academical), Jamie MacLaren (Blackburn Rovers).

Forwards – Joseph McKee (Burnley), Leighton McIntosh (Dundee), Anthony Watt (Celtic).

Roll up for Richard

HEAD for Kingston City's home ground, Grange Reserve, on Wednesday 18 May to support Nunawading City goalkeeper Richard Marnell, who has undergone major brain surgery.

Marnell, 23, who played for Nunawading for seven years, joined Berwick City this season but fell ill in April. He has been operated on twice so far, once on Tuesday 26 April and again last Thursday. Berwick senior coach Tom O'Halloran described Marnell in glowing terms at the start of the season. "Richard is a fantastic keeper and a sensational pick-up for us," he told me.

As yet we don't know the game format for the Wednesday night fundraiser but we can confirm that the participating teams will be Kingston City, Berwick City, Nunawading City, Peninsula Strikers and Croydon City.

No Apologies – Something to be Proud Of.

With the Aboriginal population making up just 2.5 percent of the Australian population the achievement of Kyah Simon and Lydia Williams to both be part of the Matilda's world cup squad is a truly remarkable one.

Ironically the only male Aborigine to represent Australia in a World Cup Finals was Harry Williams back in 1974 and also in Germany

Goal Weekly's Ashley Morrison is aware of how significant this achievement is and has started filming a documentary called "No Apologies" to commemorate this achievement. He will be heading to Germany next month to follow the girls story at the finals.

You will be able to follow the documentary as they film in Germany via their website www.noapologiesrequired.com or on Facebook.

You can also play your part in helping tell this story by becoming involved in the project via Crowfunding. This is where for as little as a $10 donation you can be a part of this historic event.

More information is available via the website or at : http://www.indiegogo.com/No-Apologies?a=16803&i=emal

Gamba Osaka

Japan's Gamba Osaka line up prior to taking on Melbourne Victory in their Asian Champions League match at Etihad Stadium on Wednesday May 4th 2011. The match finished 1-1.
Back row: YAMAGUCHI SATOSHI, ENDO YASUHITO, NAKAZAWA SOTA, KAJI AKIRA, FUJIGAYA YOSUKE.
Front Row: LEE KEUNHO, MYOJIN TOMOKAZU, FERREIRA MARTINS ADRIANO, KIM SEUNG YONG, USAMI TAKASHI, FUTAGAWA TAKAHIRO..

PHOTO: DANIEL FLIS

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Up for the Cup!

Can Manchester City win the FA Cup for the first time since 1969? Or will Stoke City upset the bookies in its first final appearance?

Perhaps the most historic and best known football game in all of world football is just around the corner. This year it falls on the Cities of Manchester and Stoke to challenge for the English FA Cup.

The FA Cup is the oldest existing football competition in the world, having begun in the early 1870's. It is traditionally the showpiece of the English football calendar, and it is one of the very few games that is commonly broadcast around the globe. Indeed, the English leagues are littered with players from many foreign lands whose first memories of football is watching the FA Cup final on television.

In recent seasons however the biggest cup competition in the world has lost a little of its much heralded magic. The domination of the competition by the top English teams has meant that many teams simply do not see winning the trophy as a realistic proposition at the start of the season. In fact, going back over the last twenty years, this year's final will be only the second to not feature Manchester United, Arsenal, Chelsea or Liverpool.

However, this year is just a little different. The final will be contested by Manchester City and Stoke, two teams that have been starved of success for many, many years. And certainly both are going to be trying their upmost to write their name into the proverbial history books come Final Day.

Both teams are relatively certain of good league finishes, with City taking fourth spot and with it a Champions League place, and Stoke with another solid league finish, with no fears over any possible relegation. But with all their efforts concentrated on this single 90 minutes of football, in what will undoubtedly be warm English sun at the home of football Wembley Stadium, which of the two will be able to walk up the famous steps and hold aloft the most famous Cup in all of football?

Manchester City

It has been a bit of a strange season for City, as although you cannot argue with the fact that an FA Cup final and a fourth spot finish constitutes a good season, it could simply have been a little better. Having spent as much as they have, which happens to be a lot more than anyone else, perhaps the City faithful should have expected to finish a little closer to United and Chelsea in the race for the title, especially given that neither United, Chelsea or even Arsenal have really impressed.

One thing that cannot be doubted when it comes to City is the quality of their squad, and rightly so considering the investment placed into it. The City boss Roberto Mancini has assembled some fine players who right now are seemingly enjoying playing with each other. The likes of Yaya Toure, David Silva and Nigel De Jong and all had good seasons, and are all a class above the players at the disposal of Stoke boss Tony Pulis.

City got to the final after a narrow victory over their hated rivals, Manchester United, and given the gulf in class between City and Stoke, shown by the relative league positions as well as the quality of the players that take the field for the two clubs, City will have to start as favourites to lift the famous trophy.

One problem City may have to contend with is the absence of their talisman Carlos Tevez. Without the Argentine up front City have lacked a little passion, enthusiasm and energy, as well as a man who has scored over 20 goals for them this term. And yet they have managed to win their last few games without him, and are currently looking in a rich vein of form; devastating news for all Stoke fans.

Without Tevez City should still be good enough to dominate Stoke, and if they can get a goal early they could take the victory fairly easily.

Stoke City

Stoke are undoubted surprise finalists, but such is the random nature of cup football. With that said, Stoke do deserve their seat at the table of English footballs showcase. They progressed to the final after destroying a fairly decent Bolton side a few weeks ago, and once again Stoke have had a solid, if unspectacular, league run.

This side is the epitome of what we think of when we say the word 'team'. They have some good players, of that there can be little doubt, yet none of their regulars really leap out as being great. What they do instead is work really hard all around the pitch, each player knowing their roles and each playing for each other. In many ways Pulis and his side operate more like an American football team than a 'soccer' team, as they concentrate more on set pieces, including their much lauded long throws, and on playing positional football than on actually simply retaining possession.

Stoke being in the final creates a neat contrast against their soon to be opponents. Whereas City is a club with massive finances, whose star players are committing to playing attractive football, Stoke are a club that operate on a relatively small budget, whose gritty and determined footballers are the kind that England are so used to producing.

Given the way that Stoke play they certainly do have a shot at winning as on any given day their style of football can give anyone problems. Just ask the likes of Monseigneur Wenger, whose Arsenal side has suffered defeat to the Potters, and who I'm sure dreads every game against the battle scarred side. And given that City have hardly been the epitome of consistency this term, one bad day for City could be a great day for Stoke.

When talking about the FA Cup Final it's hard to not slip into over-used clichés. Words like 'magic' and 'history' just roll off the tongue so easily. And so is the case for the two finalists; it quite simply is a beauty against the beast matchup.

For me, the game will be won or lost on how well City play. They have the big defenders that can stand up to Stokes aerial bombardment, and are just as physical a side in midfield as the Potters. If City can hold their nerve, and if their stars can shine, then I really can't see Stoke outdoing them.

I know as an Englishman I should be shouting from the rooftops about how great this game will be, however I do have to voice concerns over exactly how entertaining this game turn out. In fact it may turn out to be, in a phrase which is quickly becoming a favourite of mine, 'bowling-shoe ugly'. But even if that is the case, the FA Cup as a showpiece is so much more than just the game. This year will feature two teams starved of success, who really see the FA Cup as an important achievement. And that's a good thing.

If City are successful, and if I was a betting man I'd say they will be, then both myself and Roberto Mancini are in agreement that this could be the launch-pad for bigger things for the smaller team from Manchester. So at least that's one reason to tune into the final, as you can say that you witnessed City's first trophy for many years, and their first before they went on to dominate English football. Unless of course they lose, which could happen. You'll just have to watch to find out.

FA Cup Final 2011

Man City v Stoke City
Saturday May 14th
Coverage from 10:30 PM
Live from Wembley Stadium, London. Kick-off 12.00am
Broadcast on SBS One

Sunshine Coast Fire

PHOTO: ROBYN WOODALL

Sunshine Coast Fire FC Academy Squad 2011

Back Row: Nick Roth, James Verdin, Kaine Frew, Mitch Broom, Rob McNicol.
Front Row: Luke Lewis, Nick Pointon, Damien Cox, Andrew Gillen, Nico Ford, Steven Lawrence.

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Sunshine Coast Fire

PHOTO: ROBYN WOODALL

Sunshine Coast Fire FC Academy Squad 2011

Back Row: Nick Roth, James Verdin, Kaine Frew, Mitch Broom, Rob McNicol.
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Hayden Doyle

Bentleigh Greens FC

FULL NAME: Hayden James Doyle
BIRTHPLACE: Adelaide, South Australia
BIRTH DATE: 25/02/1989
HEIGHT: 184cm
WEIGHT: 79kg
MARRIED: No
CAR: Favourite car would be a Masserati.
NICKNAME: Doyley
PREVIOUS CLUBS: Stoke City, Niki Volos, Perth Glory, Perth SC
REPRESENTATIVE HONOURS: Will play for the Socceroos one day!
INDIVIDUAL HONOURS: Perth SC Payer of the Year 2010 - Captain of Stoke City Youth team
TEAM HONOURS: Runners Up In The HAL NYL With Perth Glory 2010
CHILDHOOD FOOTBALL HERO: Zinedine Zidane best footballer of all time.
FAVOURITE O/S PLAYER: Messi is running the show at the moment he is unstoppable.
FAVOURITE HAL PLAYER: Carlos Hernandez
FAVOURITE FORMER SOCCEROO: Paul Okon
FAVOURITE CURRENT SOCCEROO: Tim Cahill
MOST MEMORABLE MATCH AS A PLAYER: First game for NIKI Volos in Greece. We played away from home and won 2-1 the away fans were mental it was a great experience.
MOST MEMORABLE MATCH AS A FAN: Portsmouth v Everton in the premiership.
MOST MEMORABLE GOAL YOU'VE SCORED:
EARLIEST FOOTBALL MEMORY: Playing for Bunbury Dynamos in WA. They were my first club.
FUNNIEST MOMENT IN FOOTBALL: Too many to mention!
BIGGEST DISAPPOINTMENT: Tearing my ACL in pre season with perth glory was my most dissapoiting moment
WORST INJURY: Tore my ACL I was out for 9 months
MOST DIFFICULT OPPONENT: Travis Dodd
FAVOURITE AWAY GROUND: When i was with Stoke I played away at Leeds with the reserves we played at Elland Road that was probably the best football ground ive played at.
SUPERSTITIONS: None
TYPICAL MATCH DAY MEAL: Spaghetti Bolognaise and a powerade.
WHAT ARE YOUR STRENGTHS: Passing and first touch
WHAT ARE YOUR WEAKNESSES: Heading
FAVOURITE TEAM WHEN GROWING UP: Manchester Untied and PSV
FAVOURITE OTHER SPORTS: Table tennis and I dont mind tennis.
FAVOURITE OTHER SPORTSPERSON: Probably Lance Armstong pretty amazing what he went through and was still at the top of his sport.
FAVOURITE FOODS: Indian
FAVOURITE ACTOR/ACTRESS: Mel Gibson, Eva Mendez
HOBBIES: FIFA and playing the drums even though I'm no good.
FAVOURITE HOLIDAY RESORT: Ive heard Magaluf is good. Havnt really got a favourite.
FAVOURITE NIGHTSPOT: The TAB & Casino!
IDEAL DATE: Cheryl Cole
FAVOURITE TV SHOWS: Family Guy, entourage and Man Vs Wild
FAVOURITE MUSIC: Anything
FAVOURITE FILM: Braveheart and The Hurricane. LAST SOCCER SHIRT YOU BOUGHT: Probably a Manchester United one can't really remember. FUNNIEST RUMOUR YOU'VE HEARD ABOUT YOURSELF: Scott Bulloch keeps spreading this rumour that im ginger!
BIGGEST INFLUENCE ON CAREER: My parents. They gave me everything I needed from a young age and have supported me from day one. My Dad travels over from Adelaide regularly to watch me play even if it means a ten hour bus trip
BIGGEST DRAG IN SOCCER: Washing my training kit
FOOTBALL AMBITION: To turn proffessional again and play overseas.
WHICH PERSON IN THE WORLD WOULD YOU MOST LIKE TO MEET? : Zidane if i could speak French.
YOUR TIP FOR THIS YEAR'S HAL: Brisbane Roar
YOUR TIP FOR THIS YEAR'S VPL: South Melbourne

PHOTO: JOHN PUNSHON

Milan win first Serie A since 2004

Euro Wrap

Alex Luttrell

SERIE A

AC Milan clinched their first Serie A title since 2004 with a 0-0 draw at Roma on Saturday.

With two games to go, AC Milan have 78 points, nine more than city rivals Inter, who have three remaining games.

AC Milan's triumph brings to an end a run of five successive league titles for Inter Milan.

It also marks a successful first season for coach Massimiliano Allegri, who joined AC Milan last summer after his surprise sacking by Cagliari in April 2010.

His former side are AC Milan's next opponents, at the San Siro on Saturday, where his players can celebrate their latest title victory in front of their home fans.

Allegri said his team were worthy champions despite claims before the season began that too many of Milan's players were past their best for them to challenge for the title.

Both Milan clubs have now won 18 Serie A titles, but Juventus are still Italy's most successful domestic side by a distance with 27.

EPL

Everton threw the race for the Champions League wide open with a stunning comeback to beat Manchester City 2-1 at Goodison Park.

City, who have now lost seven of their last eight games against the Toffees, dominated the first half but only had a Yaya Toure goal to show for it.

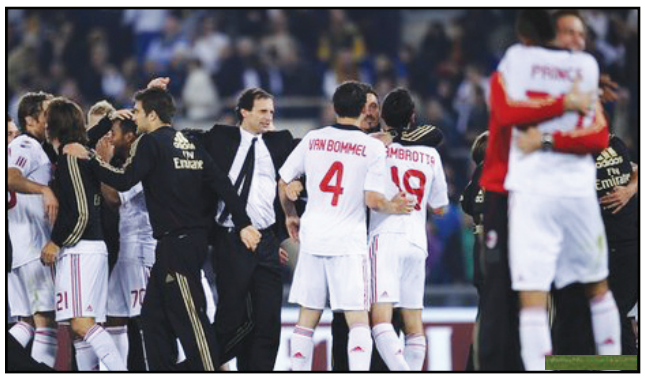
And Everton stormed back with goals from ex-City defender Sylvain Distin and a delightful header from Leon Osman.

Blackpool almost claimed the three points they desperately needed to avoid relegation but had to settle for a point in a dramatic 1-1 draw with Tottenham.

Charlie Adam missed a penalty with 15 minutes to go after Michael Dawson handled in the box but the Scotland international had the chance to atone for his miss, again from the spot, just 21 seconds later when Spurs keeper Heurelho Gomes tripped Gary Taylor-Fletcher.

This time, Adam netted to seemingly give Blackpool a crucial win but Jermain Defoe's strike on 88 minutes salvaged a point for Tottenham, whose dreams of holding on to fourth place and a Champions League spot are hanging in the balance.

The title deciding encounter between Manchester United and Chelsea was being played overnight, whilst Liiverpool was set to face Mark Schwarzer's Fulham.



AC Milan players and management celebrate their Scudetto triumph.

Championship

QPR have been promoted as Championship winners after they escaped a points deduction for breaching regulations in the 2009 signing of Alejandro Faurlin.

The club were fined £875,000 after being found guilty of two of the seven charges against them relating to the Argentine midfielder's ownership.

QPR had been feared that they could be docked points, which could have left them in the play-off places.

But the verdict allowed them to receive the Championship trophy on Saturday.

QPR manager Neil Warnock and his players collected the prize at their Loftus Road home after a 2-1 defeat at the hands of Leeds in their final game of the season.

Warnock and the club's directors had been informed of the panel's verdict on BBC1's Football Focus one hour before kick-off.

Warnock told BBC Sport: "There have been a few tears in the dressing room. It's been a hell of a time and how they [the players] have been able to focus I'll never know.

"I can't praise them high enough. It hasn't sunk in completely. It's just a relief to know we are the champions."

The verdict ended the possibility of Cardiff or Swansea moving into an automatic promotion place at QPR's expense.

But both Welsh clubs confirmed they would not take further action regarding the decision.

English League One

Southampton clinched promotion to the Championship with victory over Walsall, who survived by one point.

Guly do Prado gave Saints the lead with a fine shot after Walsall were caught in possession.

David Connolly quickly doubled the hosts' advantage with a curled finish before Julian Gray bent home magnificently for the Saddlers.

Saints sub Alex Chamberlain cut inside and hit an unstoppable shot past visiting keeper Jimmy Walker.

The result secures Southampton's return to the second tier after two years in League One.

Despite losing, Walsall, who were bottom of the table when Chris Hutchings was sacked in January, retained their League One status after Dagenham & Redbridge were comprehensively beaten by Peterborough.

English League Two

Three goals in the second half won Chesterfield the League Two title and denied Gillingham a play-off place.

Wycombe came from behind to seal promotion back to League One at the first attempt with a 3-1 win over Southend.

Before kick-off, Wycombe boss Gary Waddock knew his men required a win to guarantee an automatic promotion spot, or they could afford to match fourth-place Shrewsbury's result, who faced Oxford.

But, once the home side went in front, they never looked like surrendering the lead and ran out worthy winners in what was an entertaining game.

Lincoln City have been relegated from the Football League after losing to Aldershot in their final match 3-0.

Relegation seemed an unlikely prospect for Lincoln two months ago but they failed to win any of their last 11 league games and picked up only two points from a possible 33, giving Barnet the belief they needed to beat the Imps to League Two survival.

Lincoln City joins Stockport County as the other team to be playing Conference football next season.

SPL

Rangers extended their advantage atop the Scottish Premier League to four points with a 4-0 win over Hearts on Saturday.

Rivals Celtic will play Kilmarnock on Sunday and a win would close the gap back to one point with both sides on equal games.

In the relegation play-off group, Hamilton Academical moved within three points of safety with a 1-0 win over 10-man Hibernian.

St Mirren are only three points clear of the Accies, but hold an eight-goal better goal difference after they lost 1-0 to Inverness.

Bundesliga

Bayern Munich has ruthlessly thrashed basement side St Pauli 8-1 in the Bundesliga to seal their Champions League berth for next season.

Mario Gomez grabbed a hat-trick to take his league tally to 27 for the season while Franck Ribery and Arjen Robben both hit braces to confirm St Pauli's relegation.

Borussia Monchengladbach moved into 16th on the standings, which carries relegation playoff status, after a 2-0 win over Freiburg thanks to goals from Mike Hanke and Marco Reus.

Results

Barclays Premier League
Aston Villa 1-1 Wigan
Bolton 1-2 Sunderland
Everton 2-1 Man City
Newcastle 2-1 Birmingham
Tottenham 1-1 Blackpool
West Ham 1-1 Blackburn

Npower Championship
Barnsley 1-0 Millwall
Bristol City 3-0 Hull
Burnley 1-1 Cardiff
Crystal Palace 0-3 Nott'm Forest
Leicester 4-2 Ipswich
Middlesbrough 3-0 Doncaster
Norwich 2-2 Coventry
Preston 3-1 Watford
QPR 1-2 Leeds
Reading 2-1 Derby
Scunthorpe 1-1 Portsmouth
Swansea 4-0 Sheffield Utd

Npower League One
Bournemouth 1-2 Rochdale
Carlisle 0-2 Yeovil
Charlton 0-0 Hartlepool
Colchester 2-1 Bristol Rovers
(Bristol Rovers are relegated)
Huddersfield 4-4 Brentford
Notts County 1-1 Brighton
Oldham 1-2 MK Dons
Peterborough 5-0 Dag & Red
(Dag & Red are relegated)
Plymouth 1-4 Leyton Orient
Sheff Wed 1-2 Exeter
Southampton 3-1 Walsall
(Southampton are promoted)
Tranmere 0-2 Swindon

Npower League Two
Barnet 1-0 Port Vale
Bradford 1-5 Crewe
Burton Albion 1-1 Accrington Stanley
Chesterfield 3-1 Gillingham
(Chesterfield are champions)
Lincoln City 0-3 Aldershot
(Lincoln City are relegated)
Macclesfield 1-1 Hereford
Morecambe 1-2 Northampton
Rotherham 3-1 Torquay
Shrewsbury 3-0 Oxford Utd
Stevenage 3-3 Bury
Stockport 1-1 Cheltenham
Wycombe 3-1 Southend

Clydesdale Bank Premier League
Aberdeen 0-2 St Johnstone
Dundee Utd 4-0 Motherwell
Hamilton 1-0 Hibernian
Inverness CT 1-0 St Mirren
Rangers 4-0 Hearts

Scottish First Division
Dunfermline 3-0 Falkirk
Partick Thistle 3-0 Raith Rovers
Queen of South 3-0 Dundee
Ross County 3-0 Cowdenbeath
Stirling 3-2 Morton

Scottish Second Division
Airdrie Utd 2-2 East Fife
Alloa 1-3 Livingston
Brechin 1-0 Ayr
Dumbarton 0-0 Forfar
Peterhead 0-3 Stenhousemuir

Scottish Third Division
Arbroath 3-5 Elgin
Berwick 2-2 Albion
East Stirling 2-0 Annan Athletic
Queen's Park 4-1 Montrose
Stranraer 3-0 Clyde

The FA Carlsberg Trophy
Darlington 1-0 Mansfield

EPL

	P	GD	Pts
1 Man Utd	35	38	73
2 Chelsea	35	38	70
3 Arsenal	35	32	67
4 Man City	35	21	62
5 Tottenham	35	7	56
6 Liverpool	35	15	55
7 Everton	36	6	51
8 Bolton	36	-1	46
9 Fulham	35	7	45
10 Newcastle	36	-1	44
11 Sunderland	36	-12	44
12 Stoke	35	0	43
13 West Brom	35	-14	43
14 Aston Villa	36	-13	42
15 Blackburn	36	-14	39
16 Birmingham	36	-18	39
17 Blackpool	36	-22	36
18 Wigan	36	-23	36
19 Wolves	35	-23	34
20 West Ham	36	-23	33

Bundesliga

	P	GD	Pts
1 Borussia Dortmund (C)	33	43	72
2 Bayer Leverkusen	33	19	65
3 Bayern Munich	33	40	62
4 Hannover 96	33	2	57
5 Mainz	33	12	55
6 Nuremberg	33	4	47
7 Hamburg	33	-6	44
8 SC Freiburg	33	-8	44
9 TSG Hoffenheim	33	2	43
10 FC Kaiserslautern	33	-4	43
11 VfB Stuttgart	33	2	42
12 Werder Bremen	33	-13	41
13 Cologne	33	-16	41
14 Schalke 04	33	-5	40
15 Wolfsburg	33	-7	35
16 Borussia M'gladbach	33	-17	35
17 Eintracht Frankfurt	33	-16	34
18 St Pauli	33	-32	29

Bayer Leverkusen 1-1 Hamburg
Borussia M'gladbach 2-0 SC Freiburg
Eintracht Frankfurt 0-2 Cologne
Nuremberg 1-2 TSG Hoffenheim
Schalke 04 1-3 Mainz
St Pauli 1-8 Bayern Munich
VfB Stuttgart 2-1 Hannover 96
Werder Bremen 2-0 Borussia Dortmund
Wolfsburg 1-2 FC Kaiserslautern

Serie A

	P	GD	Pts
1 AC Milan (C)	36	38	78
2 Inter Milan	35	23	69
3 Napoli	35	21	68
4 Roma	36	6	60
5 Lazio	35	13	60
6 Udinese	35	19	59
7 Juventus	35	11	56
8 Palermo	36	-4	53
9 Fiorentina	35	7	49
10 Genoa	35	-2	45
11 Cagliari	35	-2	44
12 Chievo	35	-2	42
13 Parma	35	-9	41
14 Bologna	35	-13	40
15 Catania	35	-12	40
16 Cesena	35	-14	37
17 Sampdoria	35	-13	36
18 Lecce	35	-21	35
19 Brescia	35	-16	31
20 Bari	36	-31	21

Palermo 2-1 Bari
Roma 0-0 AC Milan
AC Milan are Champions

Playing overnight
Bologna v Parma
Brescia v Catania
Cagliari v Cesena
Inter Milan v Fiorentina
Lecce v Napoli
Udinese v Lazio
Genoa v Sampdoria
Juventus v Chievo (Mon)

SPL

	P	GD	Pts
1 Rangers	36	53	87
2 Celtic	35	54	83
3 Hearts	36	12	63
4 Dundee Utd	36	6	58
5 Kilmarnock	35	4	48
7 Motherwell	36	-16	45
6 Inverness CT	36	5	47
8 St Johnstone	36	-21	40
9 Hibernian	36	-18	37
10 Aberdeen	36	-21	35
11 St Mirren	36	-25	29
12 Hamilton	36	-33	26

Championship

	P	GD	Pts
1 QPR (C)	46	39	88
2 Norwich (P)	46	25	84
3 Swansea	46	27	80
4 Cardiff	46	22	80
5 Reading	46	26	77
6 Nott'm Forest	46	19	75
7 Leeds	46	11	72
8 Burnley	46	4	68
9 Millwall	46	14	67
10 Leicester	46	5	67
11 Hull	46	1	65
12 Middlesbrough	46	0	62
13 Ipswich	46	-6	62
14 Watford	46	6	61
15 Bristol City	46	-3	60
16 Portsmouth	46	-7	58
17 Barnsley	46	-11	56
18 Coventry	46	-4	55
19 Derby	46	-13	49
20 Crystal Palace	46	-25	48
21 Doncaster	46	-26	48
22 Preston	46	-25	42
23 Sheffield Utd	46	-35	42
24 Scunthorpe	46	-44	42

League One

	P	GD	Pts
1 Brighton (C)	46	45	95
2 Southampton (P)	46	48	92
3 Huddersfield	46	29	87
4 Peterborough	46	31	79
5 MK Dons	46	7	77
6 Bournemouth	46	21	71
7 Leyton Orient	46	9	70
8 Exeter	46	-7	70
9 Rochdale	46	8	68
10 Colchester	46	-6	62
11 Brentford	46	-7	61
12 Carlisle	46	-2	59
13 Charlton	46	-4	59
14 Yeovil	46	-10	59
15 Sheff Wed	46	0	58
16 Hartlepool	46	-18	57
17 Oldham	46	-7	56
18 Tranmere	46	-7	56
19 Notts County	46	-14	50
20 Walsall	46	-19	48
21 Dag & Red	46	-18	47
22 Bristol R	46	-34	45
23 Plymouth	46	-23	42
24 Swindon	46	-22	41

Asian Scene with Daniel Iaconis

Japan

J-League leaders Kashiwa Reysol defeated neighbours the Urawa Red Diamonds 3-1 on Saturday in front of a crowd of 24,222 at the Kashiwa Hitachi Stadium. Australian defendr Matthew Spiranovich had a dismal day at the office, with the Urawa centre back receiving a yellow card in the 26th minute and being substituted in the 65th minute.

The hosts opened up the scoring in the first minute of the game when Hideaki Kitajima found the back of the net and the hosts again penetrated the Urawa defence when Brazilian Jorge Wagner scored in the 21st minute to make t 2-0. Kashiwa Hitachi again scored in the 83rd minute while Genki Haraguchi pulled one back for the visitors in the 90th minute of the mwatch.

Elsewhere on Saturday, Sanfrecce Hiroshima came back from a 1-0 half-time deficit to draw at home to Ventforet Kofu, Vissel Kobe defeated Kawasaki Frontale 1-0 thanks to a 68th minute goal from North Korean super-sub Kang-Jo Park, Jubilo Iwata thumped Montedio Yamagata 4-0, Yokohama F. Marinos came from being 2-0 down at half-time to beat Avispa Fukuoka 3-2 and move into second place on the J-League ladder, Omiya Ardija and Albirex Niigata drew 0-0, Nagoya Grampus and Shimzu S-Pulse played out a 1-1 draw with Australian Alex Brosque scoring his first J-League goal while Cerezo Osaka and Vegalta Sendai also played out a 1-1 draw.

China

Shaanxi Chanba missed a great chance to go top of the Chinese Super League on Saturday after they where held to a 2-2 draw away to Tianjin Teda, Shandong Luneng defeated Jiangsu SHuntian 1-0 while Changchun Yatai drew 0-0 with Shanghai Shenhua.

A late strike by former Gold Coast United player Dino Djulbic strike helped rescue a point for Shaanxi Chanba in a 2-2 draw with Tianjin Teda in the Chinese Super League on Saturday.

Korea

The Suwon Bluewings were the big losers on Saturday with the Korean giants suffering their third loss in a row by losing 2-1 at home to the Chunnam Dragons while Jeonbuk Motors moved into first place with a 1-0 win at home to Ulsan.

goal! Weekly

Altona and Rovers open season account

By Niki Cook

Round 6 proved a fruitful one for the Women's Premier League's bottom two teams, with both Altona City and Doncaster Rovers both claiming their first victories of the season. Casey Comets has surged to the top of the ladder with two wins in six days, while there were also victories for South Melbourne Women's and Box Hill United. With many teams experiencing mixed results in the first third of the season, the ladder is noticeably congested, with just three points separating second and seventh.

Doncaster Rovers bounced back admirably from a heavy Round 5 defeat to record its first ever WPL victory on Wednesday night, defeating the Emerging Athlete Program 2-1 to pick up an invaluable three points. After a goalless first half, Rovers opened the scoring ten minutes after the interval through Katerina Dixon. That was how the score remained until the dying moments of the match, before Emma Johnson doubled Rovers' advantage a minute from time. Stephanie Magro struck back immediately for the EAP, but there was no time for the young side to find an equaliser, and so Doncaster celebrated its first victory of the season. With Rovers starting the night at the foot of the ladder, it was a vital three points to pick up. For the EAP, its campaign has come off the rails a little in recent weeks, as it has lost three of its last four games and has dropped to seventh on the ladder.

Box Hill United picked up its first win in three games, and its third for the season on Friday night, narrowly defeating VCL Country 3-2 at Wembley Park. The teams exchanged goals in a frenetic first half, with Ilona Jakab giving the visitors the lead after just five minutes, before Aimee Benton equalised just before the quarter hour. Katrina Smith put United ahead on 22 minutes, but Jakab squared the ledger once again with her second two minutes later. 2-2 was how it remained for much of the rest of the match, as the game became as even as the scoreline. The home side, however, lifted the intensity as full time drew near, and forced a winner ten minutes from time through Deanna Niceski. The result lifts Box Hill into fourth place, with eleven points, while Country remains ninth following its fifth defeat in seven games.

South Melbourne Women's notched its third successive victory on Saturday night, inflicting Bundoora United's second straight defeat in the process. One goal midway through the first half from Laura Spiranovic was enough for South to secure the three points in the game at Epping Stadium. After a fantastic start to the season, Bundoora has slipped somewhat in the last fortnight, losing both of its last two matches 1-0 to drop to fifth on the ladder. By contrast South, which started slowly, has hot its straps in the last few games, winning three on the bounce to climb to third.

Laura Croft (Comets) comes flying in from behind to head the ball away from Christine Pfeiffer (Ashburton). Photo: JOHN PUNSHON

Altona City emerged victorious from the battle of the league's bottom two sides, edging out Doncaster Rovers 1-0 at HC Kim Reserve on Sunday. Both teams have found the going tough so far this season, so as anticipated there was little to choose between the two. Altona snatched the win at the death, scoring the game's only goal three minutes from time to record its first win of the season. With Doncaster having won in the round's midweek match, this triumph was essential for Altona to keep in touch with the rest of the competition. After starting its campaign with four straight losses, Altona has lifted after Easter, with a draw and a win in its last two games. Both City and Rovers have four points, with Altona placed ahead on goal difference and with Doncaster having played one game more.

Casey Comets maintained its winning streak at Ashburton Park on Sunday, but only just, as it left it until the final minute of the match to edge past Ashburton. The home side has proved a fast starter this season, with this match being the four of the campaign in which it has scored in the opening fifteen minutes; the first goal coming after eight minutes on this occasion. Casey levelled the score on the half hour, and the game appeared destined for a draw. The Comets, however, had other ideas, snatching all three points with a goal right on full time to record a fourth consecutive victory. Casey is another side that has flourished after a slow start, and it sits atop the WPL ladder with sixteen points from its seven games. For Ashburton, its fourth defeat of the year leaves it in eighth position.

The final match of the round took place on Monday night at Kingston Heath Soccer Complex, when Sandringham took on Heidelberg United.

Dani Lawrence receives a joyous hug from her captain Melissa Atherton after scoring the clincher for Casey Comets. Photo: JOHN PUNSHON

Round 7 begins on Wednesday night, when Bundoora United will look to arrest its recent run of defeats when it takes on the EAP at DISC, then on Friday night Doncaster Rovers hosts Ashburton at Anderson Park. Sunday features three matches, with Altona City and Heidelberg United meeting at HC Kim Reserve, Casey Comets and Bundoora United playing at Comets Stadium, and VCL Country and South Melbourne Women's clashing at a yet to be confirmed venue. For the third consecutive week, the round wraps up on Monday night at Kingston Heath Soccer Complex, with Sandringham this time hosting Box Hill United.

WPL RESULTS

Box Hill United 3
(K Smith A Benton D Niceski)
VCL Country 2 (I Jakab 2)

Bundoora Utd 0
South Melbourne Womens FC 1

Altona City 1
Doncaster Rovers 0

Ashburton 1
Casey Comets 2

RES:
Bundoora Utd 0 South Melbourne Womens FC 4, Altona City 1 Doncaster Rovers 1, Ashburton 4 Casey Comets 1

WPL LADDER

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Casey Comets	7	5	1	1	18	7	16
Sandringham	6	4	0	2	18	7	12
South Melb	6	3	2	1	12	4	11
Box Hill Utd	7	3	2	2	13	12	11
Bundoora Utd	6	3	1	2	10	5	10
Heidelberg Utd	5	3	1	1	9	5	10
Emerging Ath	6	3	0	3	13	14	9
Ashburton	7	2	1	4	10	16	7
VCL Country	7	2	0	5	10	15	6
Altona City	6	1	1	4	6	16	4

WPL Next Round

Bundoora Utd v Emerging Athlete
DISC - Pitch 1
Wed 11 May KO 7:30PM

Doncaster Rovers v Ashburton
Anderson Park
Fri 13 May KO 8:30PM

Altona City v Heidelberg Utd
HC Kim Reserve
Sun 15 May KO 1:00PM

VCL Country v South Melbourne
To Be Confirmed
Sun 15 May KO 1:00PM

Casey Comets v Bundoora Utd
Comets Stadium
Sun 15 May KO 3:00PM

Sandringham SC v Box Hill United
Kingston Heath Soccer Complex
Mon 16 May KO 8:30PM

WPL RESERVES LADDER

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Box Hill Utd	5	5	0	0	30	5	15
South Melb	6	3	2	1	17	9	11
Bundoora Utd	6	3	1	2	8	9	10
Sandringham	4	3	0	1	9	3	9
Casey Comets	5	2	0	3	14	12	6
Ashburton	5	2	0	3	11	11	6
Altona City	5	1	2	2	3	13	5
Doncaster R	6	0	2	4	5	23	2
Heidelberg Utd	4	0	1	3	1	13	1
Emerging Ath	0				0	0	0
VCL Country	0				0	0	0

Results & Ladders

Victorian State & Provisional Leagues - Round 05

Seniors — STATE NORTH WEST 2 — Reserves

North-West: Geelong 3 Altona East Phoenix 3, Altona City 0 Moreland City 3, Ballarat Red Devils 1 (C King) Brunswick City 1, Banyule City 1 Whittlesea Ranges FC 3 (D Garisto 2 R Panetta), Werribee City 3 Westgate 1, Williamstown 0 FC Clifton Hill 0

Geelong 0 Altona East Phoenix 2, Altona City 2 (J Dossis J Pellington) Moreland City 10, Ballarat Red Devils 1 Brunswick City 0, Banyule City 1 Whittlesea Ranges FC 0, Werribee City 2 Westgate 1, Williamstown 1 FC Clifton Hill 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Moreland City	5	5	0	0	23	5	15
Whittlesea Ranges FC	5	4	1	0	11	3	13
Werribee City	5	5	0	0	11	2	12
FC Clifton Hill	5	3	1	1	7	3	7
Ballarat Red Devils	5	2	1	2	8	10	7
Altona East Phoenix	5	1	1	3	9	12	4
Geelong	5	1	1	3	9	16	4
Westgate	4	2	0	2	7	8	3
Brunswick City	5	1	2	2	6	9	2
Williamstown	4	0	2	2	1	8	2
Altona City	5	0	1	4	4	10	1
Banyule City	5	0	0	5	2	12	0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Altona East Phoenix	5	4	0	1	11	7	12
FC Clifton Hill	5	3	2	0	11	5	11
Werribee City	5	3	1	1	8	7	10
Moreland City	5	3	0	2	23	10	9
Brunswick City	5	3	0	2	10	8	9
Williamstown	4	2	1	1	5	3	7
Ballarat Red Devils	5	2	1	2	6	8	7
Banyule City	5	2	0	3	8	11	6
Whittlesea Ranges FC	5	1	2	2	9	10	5
Westgate	4	1	1	2	5	6	4
Geelong	5	0	1	4	4	13	1
Altona City	5	0	1	4	5	17	1

Seniors — STATE SOUTH EAST 2 — Reserves

Doncaster Rovers 1 Eastern Lions 2, Casey Comets 1 (L Ryan) Box Hill United 1, Dandenong City 4 (WM Gordon V Juric R- Machado I Bajo) Malvern City 2, Knox City 2 Diamond Valley Utd 2, Morwell Pegasus 4 (J Mcgeoghegan P Byrne N Knox 2) Heatherton Utd 1, South Springvale 1 (C Metcalfe) Noble Park Utd 0

Doncaster Rovers 2 Eastern Lions 2, Casey Comets 1 Box Hill United 1, Dandenong City 1 (S Filipovic) Malvern City 1, Knox City 4 Diamond Valley Utd 1, Morwell Pegasus 2 (A Bateman O Sceney) Heatherton Utd 5, South Springvale 2 Noble Park Utd 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Eastern Lions	5	4	1	0	12	5	13
Dandenong City	5	4	0	1	12	7	12
Diamond Valley Utd	5	2	3	0	13	10	9
Casey Comets	5	2	1	2	10	5	7
South Springvale	5	2	1	2	6	8	7
Box Hill United	5	1	3	1	7	4	6
Morwell Pegasus	5	2	0	3	8	9	6
Malvern City	5	2	0	3	11	13	6
Heatherton Utd	5	2	0	3	8	12	6
Doncaster Rovers	5	1	1	3	7	10	4
Noble Park Utd	5	1	1	3	5	10	4
Knox City	5	1	1	3	6	12	4

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Knox City	5	3	1	1	15	8	10
South Springvale	5	3	1	1	10	6	10
Noble Park Utd	5	3	0	2	11	8	9
Eastern Lions	5	2	3	0	10	8	9
Casey Comets	5	2	2	1	12	5	8
Doncaster Rovers	5	2	1	2	9	7	7
Dandenong City	5	2	1	2	5	8	7
Box Hill United	5	1	3	1	7	8	6
Diamond Valley Utd	5	2	0	3	8	13	6
Morwell Pegasus	5	1	2	2	11	15	5
Heatherton Utd	5	1	0	4	8	17	3
Malvern City	5	0	2	3	10	13	2

Seniors — STATE NORTH WEST 3 — Reserves

Cairnlea 1 (O Gurkan) Melbourne University 2 (LP Correa E Thomson), Avondale Heights 1 (F Bazzano) La Trobe University 1, Geelong Rangers 2 Maribyrnong Greens 4, Hume Utd 1 (E Koc) Keilor Park 1 (G Mussel), Sydenham Park 1 (I Mladenovski) Yarraville Glory 0, Whittlesea Utd 2 (S Mirik B Sahin) Sunbury Utd 1 (I Vincenzo)

Cairnlea 2 Melbourne University 1 (MA Cosmano), Avondale Heights 2 La Trobe University 1, Geelong Rangers 2 Maribyrnong Greens 0, Hume Utd 0 Keilor Park 12 (J Bruzzichessi 5 J- Johnston J Porter M Dragovic 2 M Mohamed AA Gusman), Sydenham Park 2 Yarraville Glory 3, Whittlesea Utd 1 (M Ozdemir) Sunbury Utd 1 (DG Kenney)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Keilor Park	5	3	2	0	7	2	11
Melbourne University	5	3	1	1	9	4	10
Sydenham Park	5	3	0	2	11	9	9
Avondale Heights	5	2	2	1	9	7	8
Cairnlea	5	2	2	1	5	4	8
Whittlesea Utd	5	2	1	2	6	7	7
Yarraville Glory	5	2	1	2	4	5	7
Geelong Rangers	5	1	3	1	10	11	6
Sunbury Utd	5	2	0	3	6	7	6
Hume Utd	5	1	1	3	6	8	4
La Trobe University	5	1	1	3	5	8	4
Maribyrnong Greens	5	1	0	4	8	14	3

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Keilor Park	5	3	1	1	26	7	10
Whittlesea Utd	5	3	1	1	17	5	10
La Trobe University	5	3	1	1	14	10	10
Sunbury Utd	5	2	3	0	14	6	9
Avondale Heights	5	3	0	2	14	8	9
Cairnlea	5	3	0	2	13	14	9
Yarraville Glory	5	3	0	2	15	18	9
Sydenham Park	5	2	1	2	11	12	7
Maribyrnong Greens	5	1	1	3	11	20	4
Hume Utd	5	1	1	3	8	25	4
Geelong Rangers	5	1	0	4	3	15	3
Melbourne University	5	0	1	4	4	10	1

Seniors — STATE SOUTH EAST 3 — Reserves

Berwick City 3 (OA Mejias 2 J Ashby) Croydon City Arrows 2, Doveton 0 Fitzroy City 1, Waverley Wanderers 0 Peninsula Strikers 0, Frankston Pines 0 Mornington 8

Berwick City 2 (B Maokhamphiou B Thomas) Croydon City Arrows 1, Doveton 1 Fitzroy City 2, Waverley Wanderers 1 Peninsula Strikers 1, Frankston Pines 1 (LD McMinimee) Mornington 3

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Old Scotch	4	4	0	0	11	5	12
Kingston City	4	3	1	0	8	2	10
Mornington	5	3	0	2	16	7	9
Fitzroy City	5	3	0	2	6	8	9
Doveton	5	2	1	2	5	4	7
Peninsula Strikers	5	1	3	1	11	13	6
Berwick City	5	2	0	3	8	10	6
Nunawading City FC	4	1	2	1	5	5	5
North Caulfield	4	1	2	1	4	4	5
Waverley Wanderers	5	1	1	3	7	6	4
Croydon City Arrows	5	1	0	4	8	12	3
Frankston Pines	5	0	2	3	7	20	2

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Kingston City	4	4	0	0	12	3	12
Old Scotch	4	4	0	0	13	6	12
Fitzroy City	5	3	1	1	9	9	10
Berwick City	5	3	0	2	11	9	9
Croydon City Arrows	5	2	1	2	15	9	7
North Caulfield	4	2	1	1	12	9	7
Waverley Wanderers	5	2	1	2	12	13	7
Mornington	5	2	0	3	10	11	6
Doveton	5	1	1	3	6	9	4
Peninsula Strikers	5	1	1	3	6	10	4
Nunawading City FC	4	1	0	3	10	14	3
Frankston Pines	5	0	0	5	5	19	0

Seniors — PROVI 1 NORTH WEST — Reserves

Corio 4 (V Stojanovic 2 M Marinovic D Longo) North Sunshine Eagles 3, FC Strathmore 2 Westvale 1, Laverton Park 1 Surf Coast 1, Northern Falcons 2 (S Koumi 2) Western Eagles 1, South Yarra 0 Essendon Utd 3, Sporting Whittlesea FC 1 (H Diagne) North City Lions 0

Corio 1 North Sunshine Eagles 2, FC Strathmore 1 Westvale 4, Laverton Park 0 Surf Coast 2, Northern Falcons 2 Western Eagles 2, South Yarra 3 Essendon Utd 0, Sporting Whittlesea FC 4 North City Lions 1 (D Grima)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Corio	5	4	0	1	14	10	12
North Sunshine Eagles	5	2	2	1	10	7	8
Laverton Park	5	2	2	1	8	6	8
North City Lions	5	2	1	2	11	10	7
South Yarra	5	2	1	2	7	8	7
Sporting Whittlesea FC	5	2	1	2	7	8	7
Westvale	5	1	3	1	8	6	6
Western Eagles	5	2	0	3	10	9	6
FC Strathmore	5	1	3	1	11	12	6
Northern Falcons	5	2	0	3	6	12	6
Surf Coast	5	1	2	2	8	11	5
Essendon Utd	5	1	1	3	7	8	4

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
South Yarra	5	5	0	0	14	3	15
North Sunshine Eagles	5	4	1	0	17	8	13
Surf Coast	5	3	1	1	10	7	10
Laverton Park	5	3	0	2	10	9	9
Sporting Whittlesea FC	5	2	2	1	15	12	8
Westvale	5	2	0	3	13	7	6
Corio	5	1	2	2	13	9	5
Northern Falcons	5	1	2	2	8	21	5
North City Lions	5	1	1	3	9	12	4
FC Strathmore	5	1	1	3	9	14	4
Essendon Utd	5	1	1	3	6	13	4
Western Eagles	5	0	1	4	5	14	1

Seniors — PROVI 1 SOUTH EAST — Reserves

Warragul Utd 1 (J Baldwin) Hampton Park United Sparrows 2 (L Wang T Ithier), Mooroolbark 2 (Y Christoforou SW Milne) Skye Utd 1 (J Roach), Monash University 1 (M Ormandy) Old Melburnians 4, Old Camberwell Grammar 2 (A Kaimakamis J Triantopoulos) Lyndale Utd 1, Sandringham SC 0 Beaumaris 1 (DA Gibson), Springvale City 2 Brandon Park 0

Warragul Utd 9 (H Fitzpatrick S Byers 4 J Parnall 3 L McDonald) Hampton Park United Sparrows Football Club 2, Mooroolbark 6 (JC Odd K Turner 2 D Cox BW Henriques 2) Skye Utd 0, Monash University 1 Old Melburnians 0, Old Camberwell Grammar 0 Lyndale Utd 0, Sandringham SC 4 Beaumaris 1, Springvale City 1 Brandon Park 2

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Springvale City	5	4	1	0	10	1	13
Hampton Park United	5	3	2	0	14	10	11
Warragul Utd	5	3	1	1	9	4	10
Mooroolbark	5	3	1	1	12	8	10
Beaumaris	5	3	0	2	11	13	9
Old Melburnians	5	2	2	1	12	9	8
Monash University	5	1	2	2	8	14	5
Skye Utd	5	1	1	3	9	11	4
Old Camberwell Grammar	5	1	1	3	3	5	4
Sandringham SC	5	2	0	3	9	7	3
Lyndale Utd	5	0	2	3	7	15	2
Brandon Park	5	0	1	4	3	10	1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Mooroolbark	5	5	0	0	28	6	15
Sandringham SC	5	4	1	0	18	6	10
Warragul Utd	5	3	0	2	20	11	9
Monash University	5	2	3	0	12	9	9
Old Camberwell Grammar	5	2	2	1	11	10	8
Old Melburnians	5	2	1	2	9	6	7
Beaumaris	5	2	1	2	12	10	7
Brandon Park	5	1	2	2	6	13	5
Skye Utd	5	1	2	2	9	17	5
Hampton Park United	5	1	1	3	6	24	4
Lyndale Utd	5	0	1	4	5	12	1
Springvale City	5	0	0	5	1	13	0

Seniors — PROVI 2 NORTH WEST — Reserves

Elwood City 2 Bell Park 1, Epping City 3 Northern Roosters 2 (S Haigh a uguz), West Preston 1 Melbourne City 2, Moreland Utd 2 Melbourne Tornado 2, Plenty Valley Lions 3 (D Petkovski 2 G Cecov) Hoppers Crossing 1, Upfield 3 Lalor Utd 2

Elwood City 3 Bell Park 1, Epping City 3 Northern Roosters 1 (Y Battal), West Preston 2 Melbourne City 2, Moreland Utd 2 Melbourne Tornado 0, Plenty Valley Lions 0 Hoppers Crossing 3, Upfield 4 Lalor Utd 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Hoppers Crossing	5	4	0	1	13	9	12
West Preston	5	4	0	1	8	5	12
Moreland Utd	5	3	1	1	10	7	10
Upfield	5	3	0	2	11	7	9
Plenty Valley Lions	5	3	0	2	8	4	9
Epping City	5	3	0	2	9	7	9
Elwood City	5	2	1	2	13	12	7
Melbourne City	5	2	0	3	10	12	6
Lalor Utd	5	2	0	3	7	11	6
Melbourne Tornado	5	1	2	2	10	14	5
Northern Roosters	5	1	0	4	7	11	3
Bell Park	5	0	0	5	5	12	0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Upfield	5	5	0	0	18	6	15
Epping City	5	4	0	1	13	5	12
Hoppers Crossing	5	4	0	1	9	2	12
Elwood City	5	3	1	1	21	11	10
Lalor Utd	5	3	0	2	8	8	9
Northern Roosters	5	2	1	2	10	9	7
Moreland Utd	5	2	0	3	6	8	6
Bell Park	5	1	1	3	5	9	4
Melbourne City	5	1	1	3	8	15	4
Plenty Valley Lions	5	1	0	4	6	14	3
Melbourne Tornado	5	1	0	4	12	22	3
West Preston	5	0	2	3	7	14	2

Seniors — PROVI 2 SOUTH EAST — Reserves

: Monbulk 0 Bayside Argonauts 1 (D Daperis), Seaford Utd 2 Ashburton United 1 (M Verhoeven), Casey Kings 5 Uni. of Melbourne 0, Caulfield United Cobras SC 2 (O Tufan P Chatenay) Keysborough 2, Endeavour Utd 2 Boroondara Eagles 2 (A Giuliano S Wong), Old Carey 1 Riversdale 2

Monbulk 3 Bayside Argonauts 2 (A Poberezovsky 2), Seaford Utd 3 Ashburton United 2, Casey Kings 0 Uni. of Melbourne 2, Caulfield United Cobras SC 1 (A Iliopoulos) Keysborough 3, Endeavour Utd 2 Boroondara Eagles 1 (M Lombardi), Old Carey 2 Riversdale 0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Caulfield United Cobras	5	3	2	0	13	8	11
Bayside Argonauts	5	3	1	1	13	6	10
Monbulk	5	3	0	2	9	7	9
Riversdale	5	3	0	2	8	9	9
Casey Kings	5	3	2	0	16	6	8
Old Carey	5	2	1	2	8	8	7
Seaford Utd	5	2	0	3	9	10	6
Ashburton United	5	2	0	3	8	12	6
Keysborough	5	1	2	2	9	9	5
Boroondara Eagles	5	1	2	2	6	8	5
Endeavour Utd	5	1	1	3	5	7	4
Uni. of Melbourne	5	0	1	4	4	18	1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Keysborough	5	4	1	0	17	9	13
Monbulk	5	4	0	1	17	4	12
Caulfield United Cobras	5	4	0	1	9	4	12
Ashburton United	5	3	1	1	15	7	10
Endeavour Utd	5	3	1	1	7	5	10
Uni. of Melbourne	5	3	0	2	12	8	9
Old Carey	5	1	3	1	5	6	6
Seaford Utd	5	2	0	3	9	11	6
Boroondara Eagles	5	1	1	3	6	14	4
Bayside Argonauts	5	1	0	4	11	14	3
Riversdale	5	0	0	5	5	16	0
Casey Kings	5	0	1	4	3	18	-2

Seniors — PROVI 3 NORTH WEST — Reserves

: Heidelberg Stars 3 (AM Ahmed 2 M Ahmed) Essendon Royals 5 (M Grosso M Collina 3 A Sirin), Meadow Park Eagles 0 Brimbank Stallions 1, Mill Park 1 Darebin Utd 0, Watsonia Heights 1 Moreland Wolves 3, Youth Utd 3 Brunswick Zebras 3, Melton Phoenix FC 2 (L Robinson J Flitzanis) Balmoral FC 5 (J Avdic H Ikanovic 4)

Heidelberg Stars 4 Essendon Royals 3 (R Marchioli 2), Meadow Park Eagles 0 Brimbank Stallions 1, Mill Park 1 Darebin Utd 3, Watsonia Heights 4 Moreland Wolves 0, Youth Utd 1 Brunswick Zebras 9, Melton Phoenix FC 3 Balmoral FC 1 (M Hot)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Essendon Royals	5	4	0	1	17	12	12
Brunswick Zebras	5	3	1	1	17	12	10
Meadow Park Eagles	5	3	1	1	12	9	10
Moreland Wolves	5	3	0	2	16	10	9
Heidelberg Stars	5	3	0	2	13	10	9
Brimbank Stallions	5	3	1	1	13	9	7
Youth Utd	5	2	1	2	9	14	7
Watsonia Heights	5	2	0	3	12	9	6
Darebin Utd	5	2	0	3	5	7	6
Balmoral FC	5	1	2	2	19	18	5
Mill Park	5	1	0	4	2	13	3
Melton Phoenix FC	5	0	0	5	5	17	0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Watsonia Heights	5	5	0	0	23	3	15
Heidelberg Stars	5	4	0	1	24	10	12
Moreland Wolves	5	3	1	1	14	8	10
Melton Phoenix FC	5	3	1	1	9	6	10
Brimbank Stallions	5	4	0	1	7	5	9
Brunswick Zebras	5	2	1	2	13	8	7
Darebin Utd	5	2	1	2	6	10	7
Balmoral FC	5	1	1	3	8	11	4
Meadow Park Eagles	5	1	1	3	4	12	4
Essendon Royals	5	1	0	4	11	13	3
Youth Utd	5	1	0	4	12	23	3
Mill Park	5	0	0	5	2	24	0

Seniors — PROVI 3 SOUTH EAST — Reserves

Whitehorse Utd 1 East Bentleigh 0, Noble Park 1 Baxter 3 (B Ingram M Chaplin G Stewart), Old Trinity Grammarians 1 (A Mcquinn) Brighton 4, Collingwood City 2 Rowville Eagles 1 (JM Botha), White Star Dandenong 2 Eltham Redback FC 0, Old Brighton Grammarians 1 Middle Park FC 3

Whitehorse Utd 5 East Bentleigh 1, Noble Park 0 Baxter 6 (B Norris S Drew P Disseldorp 2 J Brodrick J Brown), Old Trinity Grammarians 2 Brighton 3, Collingwood City 3 Rowville Eagles 0, White Star Dandenong 2 Eltham Redback FC 0, Old Brighton Grammarians 2 Middle Park FC 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Middle Park FC	5	5	0	0	22	3	15
Collingwood City	5	5	0	0	14	5	15
Whitehorse Utd	5	3	1	1	10	5	10
Old Brighton Grammarians	5	3	0	2	14	9	9
Rowville Eagles	5	3	0	2	16	12	9
Brighton	5	2	0	3	13	15	6
Baxter	5	2	0	3	9	13	6
Old Trinity Grammarians	5	2	0	3	10	16	6
White Star Dandenong	5	2	0	3	8	15	6
Eltham Redback FC	5	1	1	3	7	14	4
Noble Park	5	1	0	4	10	16	3
East Bentleigh	5	0	0	5	6	16	0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Old Brighton Grammarians	5	5	0	0	14	7	15
Collingwood City	5	4	1	0	26	7	13
Brighton	5	3	2	0	13	7	11
Baxter	5	3	1	1	18	11	10
Old Trinity Grammarians	5	3	0	2	14	9	9
Middle Park FC	5	3	0	2	11	6	9
Whitehorse Utd	5	3	0	2	13	10	9
Rowville Eagles	5	2	0	3	10	13	6
White Star Dandenong	5	1	0	4	8	16	3
East Bentleigh	5	0	1	4	8	18	1
Noble Park	5	0	1	4	2	22	1
Eltham Redback FC	5	0	0	5	1	12	0

State & Provi Round 6 Fixtures

All matches to be played on Saturday 14th May with 3pm KO unless otherwise stated.

STATE NW 2

Whittlesea Ranges FC v Ballarat Red Devils
Partridge Reserve
Altona East Phoenix v Banyule City
Paisley Park Soccer Complex
Brunswick City v Altona City
Dunstan Reserve
FC Clifton Hill v Werribee City
Kevin Bartlett Reserve
Moreland City v Williamstown
Campbell Reserve
Westgate v Geelong
Ardeer Reserve Sat 14 May KO 7:00PM

STATE SE 2

Eastern Lions v Casey Comets
Gardiners Creek Reserve
Diamond Valley Utd v Morwell Pegasus
Partington Flats
Heatherton Utd v Dandenong City
Bosnia & Herzegovina Centre
Noble Park Utd v Doncaster Rovers
Parkfield Reserve
Box Hill United v Knox City
Wembley Park
Malvern City v South Springvale
Kooyong Reserve No. 3

STATE NW 3

Keilor Park v Whittlesea Utd
Keilor Park Reserve
La Trobe University v Geelong Rangers
Latrobe Uni Lower Field
Maribyrnong Greens v Hume Utd
Skinner Reserve
Sunbury Utd v Cairnlea
Langama Park
Yarraville Glory v Avondale Heights
McIvor Reserve
Melbourne University v Sydenham Park
Princes Park Oval #1

STATE SE 3

Fitzroy City v Frankston Pines
Fairfield Park
Peninsula Striker v Doveton
Centenary Park
Nunawading City FC v Waverley Wanderers
Mahoneys Road Reserve
Old Scotch v Kingston City
H.A. Smith Reserve
Mornington v Berwick City
Dallas Brooks Park
Croydon City Arrows v North Caulfield
Dorset Recreational Mon 16 May KO 8:30PM

PROVI NW 1

North City Lions v Corio
Wallace Reserve
North Sunshine Eagles v Laverton Park
Larissa Reserve
Western Eagles v FC Strathmore
Polish Sports & Reserve
Westvale v Sporting Whittlesea FC
McKechnie Reserve
Essendon Utd v Northern Falcons
Aberfeldie Park
Surf Coast v South Yarra
Quay Reserve

PROVI SE 1

Beaumaris v Old Camberwell Grammar
Beaumaris Reserve
Brandon Park v Monash University
Freeway Reserve
Hampton Park United Sparrows v Skye Utd
TBC
Lyndale Utd v Warragul Utd
Lyndale Secondary College
Old Melburnians v Sandringham SC
Robert Menzies Res
Mooroolbark v Springvale City
Esther Park Reserve Sat 14 May KO 8:15PM

PROVI NW 2

Bell Park v Plenty Valley Lions
Bell Park Sports Club
Hoppers Crossing v Upfield
Grange Reserve
Lalor Utd v Moreland Utd
HR Uren Reserve
Melbourne Tornado v Melbourne City
Newmarket Reserve
West Preston v Epping City
Oulton Reserve
Northern Roosters v Elwood City
Gibb Reserve

PROVI SE 2

Riversdale v Caulfield United Cobras SC
Frog Hollow Reserve
Boroondara Eagles v Ashburton United
Macleay Park
Keysborough v Monbulk
Coomoora Reserve
Old Carey v Seaford Utd
Carey Sports Complex
Uni. of Melbourne v Endeavour Utd
Princes Park Oval #2
Bayside Argonauts v Casey Kings
Shipston Reserve

PROVI NW 3

Balmoral FC v Heidelberg Stars
Arthur Beachley Reserve
Brimbank Stallion v Melton Phoenix FC
Club Italia Sporting Club
Darebin Utd v Youth Utd
Mayer Park
Essendon Royals v Watsonia Heights
Reggio Calabria Club
Moreland Wolves v Mill Park
Reddish Reserve
Brunswick Zebras v Meadow Park Eagles
Sumner Park

PROVI SE 3

East Bentleigh v White Star Dandenong
Bailey Reserve
Baxter v Rowville Eagles
Baxter Park
Old Trinity Grammarians v Collingwood City
Trinity Sports Ground
Brighton v Old Brighton Grammarians
Dendy Park
Whitehorse Utd v Middle Park FC
Terrara Park
Eltham Redbacks FC v Noble Park
Eltham North Res Sat 14 May KO 7:00PM

Cobras and Keysborough share the spoils

By Michal Skrodsky

Well folks after a week off I am back for the State and Provisional League wrap! And what a week it was across the suburban football fields of Victoria.

State 2 NW saw unfeated Moreland City travel to Altona City who are without a win and it was no surpise Moreland continued their early season romp with a somewhat easy 3-0 win. On Friday night down at Elcho Park Geelong and Altona East played out a thrilling 3-3 draw and Banyule City remain pointless over a 1-3 home loss to high flying Whittlesea Ranges. Next week's match of the week is probably the crunch game between Brunswick City and Altona City as both teams are located near the bottom of the ladder.

State 2 SE saw Eastern Lions remain on top after a hard-fought 2-1 away win to Doncaster Rovers. They are however being hotly chased by Dandenong City who are only 1-point behind after a aolid 4-2 win at home to Malvern City. Morewell Pegasus also had a morale boosting 4-1 win at home to Heatheron United. This league remains just about as close as it can get, (apart from the top 2) with only 3 points seperating 3rd down to 12th meaning there should be some corking relegation scraps come end of the season. Next week's crunch game come's in the form of a derby! Heatherton United are taking on Dandenong City is what could be a heated affair, let's hope the ref brings his cards because he might need them at this match!

In **State 3 NW** a suprise 1-1 draw between Hume United and Keilor Park. The top of the table purple eagles travelled to lowly Hume probably expecting the three points by credit to the Hume boys who took a point off the Purples. The draw means Melbourne University are only one point behind in 2nd after a 2-1 away win at Cairlea, Cairnlea could have claimed top if they would have won that game, they must be kicking themselves for this loss. Another huge upset this week was last placed Maribyrnong Greens taking all three points in a 4-1 win down at Geelong Rangers. This win must give the Greens belief that they will be a State 3 club in 2012. Next week's blockbuster is 2nd vs 3rd, that is Melbourne University vs Sydenham Park down at Princes Park.

A massive result in **State 3 SE** on Sunday with winless North Caulfield getting over Scotch 2-0 who up until this point had a perfect record. This leaves the door wide open for Kingston City of they can get over Nunawading City in Monday's game. Elsewhere it got from bad to worse for teh struggling Frankston Pines who not only lost at home to local rivals Mornington, but lost in a shameful manner, 8-0 the final score. Next week's match of the round is again a no-brainer, 1st verses 2nd, Old Scotch vs Kingston City, a match that could really set up either teams season if won.

Provisional 1 NW saw the Western Eagles succumb to their 3rd loss in a row, this week 1-2 away to Northern Falcons. Corio won the top of the table match of the round this week, and what a match it was between Corio and North Sunshine. The match was heading for a 3-3 draw until Daniel Longo popped up for Corio in the 87th minute to hit home the winner to send the gulash loving Corio fans into delirium. That win opens up a 4 point lead at the top over North Sunshine who has a group of clubs keenly chasing them. Winless Essendon United provided the upset of the week in this league, with a 3-0 away win at South Yarra. This league is very close, only two points seperate 3rd to 10th. Next week's match of the round is 2nd vs 3rd, North Sunshine vs Laverton Park.

Provisional 1 SE saw high flying Springvale City take top spot after a 2-0 win over bottom-placed Brandon Park. In the match of the round Hampton Park managed to get the points in Warragul with a 2-1 win, this is no mean feat as many teams will try but fail down in Gippsland. Other than that results pretty much went to form, next week the match to look out for is top placed Spingvale City travelling down to face Mooroolbark in their own backyard, this should be a very close and hard fought match.

Provisional 2 NW is anyone's for the taking after the three top teams failed to win this week. Hoppers Crossing remain first despite a 1-3 away loss at Plenty Valley, West Preston remain 2nd after a poor 1-2 home loss to Melbourne City and Moreland United missed the chance of taking top spot atfer being held at home 2-2 to Melbourne Tornado. Bell Park remain pointless after a 1-2 away loss to Elwood City. Next week all eyes will be on the local West Preston vs Epping match as both teams are in the mix at the top.

Provisional 2 SE saw Casey Kings strut their stuff in a 5-0 home win over last placed University of Melbourne. Caulfield United remain on top after only picking up a point at home to Keysborough, however their lead remains 1 point after the Argonauts of Bayside won 1-0 away to Monbulk, Monbulk would have been on top had they won this match. Next week the big clash is between Riversdale and Monbulk.

Provisional 3 NW saw Essendon Royals jump Brunswick Zebras and Meadow Park and take top spot with a thrilling 5-3 win away at Heidelberg Stars. Brunswick drew 3-3 away at Youth United while Meadow Park lost 0-1 at home to Brimbank Stallions. Melton remain pointless and copped another 5 bigs ones in their 2-5 loss to Balmoral. This league continues with it;s wild high scoring matches, and let's hope it remains that way! Next week, look no further than Brunwick Zebras vs Meadow Park, 2nd vs 3rd, enough said!

Provisional 3 SE saw Middle Park and Collingwood City continue to romp home the wins, both are 5 from 5 with only goal difference between them. Middle Park won 3-1 away to Old Brighton while Collingwood City won 2-1 at home to Rowville. East Bentleigh continue to struggling after an unlucky 1-0 away loss to Whithorse United. Next week's crunch game is East Bentleigh vs White Star Dandenong.

Pablo Rodriguez slots one through in the 83rd minute to even the score to 2-2. Photo: ANITA MILAS

Nicolas Rosamalia stretches to get the ball from Pierre Chatenay. Photo: ANITA MILAS

Keysborough celebrate the first goal of the game 41 minutes into the first half. Photo: ANITA MILAS

Cobra's answer shortly after when Captain Onur Tufun scores in the 51st minute. Photo: ANITA MILAS

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Sharks maintain perfect start to the season

IN THE NICK OF TIME
PORT MELBOURNE 2
ALTONA MAGIC 1

A goal in the fourth minute of injury time maintained Port Melbourne's winning streak to the season, as they overcame a tenacious Altona Magic 2-1 at Anderson Reserve on Friday night. In a dramatic ending to a tense encounter, Altona could have snatched the win themselves with a late goal, only for some great defensive work by Port Melbourne's Sam Arico. His desperate block prevented a certain goal and the Sharks made the visitors pay a few minutes later with the winning goal to make it 5 straight wins this season. There was very little between the two sides in a game that looked destined to end in a draw, until the two Nick's (Kalombokis & Ronne) combined to give all 3 points to the home team. With the referee looking at his watch, Nick Kalombokis squared the ball from the goal line for Nick Ronne, who hit home a shot that snuck in under the cross-bar and the upright. It was tough on Magic who made a match of it and had to play the final 10 minutes with 10 men following the dismissal of Kole Delev who was cautioned twice in a matter of a few minutes. It was Altona Magic who took the lead after 20 minutes following a corner kick that was scored by Kole Delev. The Sharks were back on level terms before the break, when Nick Kalombokis curled a free kick around the wall from 25 metres to bring great joy to the Port's faithful. The second half was cut and thrust with both team's having their chances. Despite playing with 10 men Altona remained a threath posing the home team some anxious moments. The big question is, who is going to stop Port Melbourne Sharks this year?

STARS DO IT THE HARD WAY
SOUTHERN STARS 1
WHITTLESEA ZEBRAS 0

Southern Stars kept the pressure on Port Melbourne with backs to the wall 1-0 win over Whittlesea Zebras in the match of the round. It was a bright and interesting game with the home team going ahead and then having to readjust their game after Halil Gur was sent off for a second bookable offence. The Stars took the lead at the 20th minute mark following good lead up work by Alan Kearney who found Mark Leech who put away his third goal for the season. Southern Stars were reduced to 10 men after 25 minutes but managed to soak up all the pressure Whittlesea exerted for the remainder of the game. Clear cut chances for the visitors were few and far between with Southern Stars keeper Robert Acs called into action twice making good saves. Coach Dean Hennesey was thrilled at his side's ability to work hard when the situation demanded it and for getting the 3 points in such an important game.

Nick D'Angello (Langy) andAdrian DelMonaco (Bulleen) contest the aerial ball.
PHOTO: DARRYL KENNEDY

Langwarrin keeper Michael Sivulja punches clear of Jarron Delmonaco (Bulleen), Alex Van HeerWaarden (Langy), Srojan Stefanovic (Bulleen). PHOTO: DARRYL KENNEDY

LANGWARRIN PRESSURE TELLS
LANGWARRIN 1
FC BULLEEN LIONS 0

A first half goal was enough to give Langwarrin a much needed 1-0 home win over FC Bulleen Lions. The only goal of this game came in the first half. The Lions were also very much in need of a win after a very disappointing start to this season's campaign. With this loss the poor run of results continued for the Bulleen Lions and it must be a huge concern for all at the Veneto Club to see little improvement, result wise. Langwarrin's win relieved the pressure that had been building after three losses.

YOUNG WARRIORS DELIVERING THE GOODS
NTH GEELONG 1
PASCOE VALE 0

The fighting North Geelong Warriors made amends for last week's poor effort when they went down 1-4 to Preston Lions, by recording an important win over fellow struggler Pascoe Vale. The all important winning goal arrived just before the break when Matthew Demo was on hand to score. It was the tonic North needed with the goal boosting confidence to this very young side. The Warriors coach Ante Skoko was full of praise for the youngest squad in the first division with the team's average age being just 18 years. His two central defenders were both 17 years old. Pascoe Vale applied a lot of pressure and displayed some great technical football, but to their credit the home team stood up to the challenge. Pascoe Vale came close several times hitting the post once and were thwarted by some desperate Warrior's defending. If there is any criticism of this Pascoe Vale side, it is the inability to put away chances. It has been a horrid start to the season by Pascoe Vale after being rated as one of the early season favourites for promotion. Coach George Karkaletis can't wait for the day his side starts putting away the goals.

John Crivelli (Bulleen) gives chase to Caleb Nicholes (Langwarrin).
PHOTO: DARRUL KENNEDY

LIONS FIGHT BACK
PRESTON LIONS 3
WESTERN SUBURBS 3

Preston Lions looked dead and buried at half time as they trailed 1-3 to an inform Western Suburbs side. To their credit the Lions showed great fighting qualities in the second half to come back for a share of the points with a goal in injury time. Western Suburbs were by far the better team in the opening 45 minutes with Dimitri Vithoulkas grabbing a first half hat-trick for Suburbs. The young Suburbs striker is in a great scoring vein with 8 goals scored so far this season. The Western Suburbs outfit dominated the first half for a well deserved lead at the break. It was always going to be tough for Preston to mount a comeback, but the home team was given a lifeline with an own goal to reduce the deficit. Preston could sense the possibility of grabbing at least a point from the game and exerted a lot of pressure on what had become an uncomfortable afternoon for the visitors. With time running out Preston launched an all out assault and were rewarded with a dramatic equaliser to send the home fans wild with excitement. Preston players and supporters were ecstatic with the result, but Western Suburbs felt it was 2 points lost rather than a point won.

GEORGIES GET THE BLUES
SUNS GEORGE CROSS 0
FAWKNER BLUES 2

The Fawkner Blues made amends for last week's defeat to Port Melbourne by inflicting Sunshine's 4th successive loss of the season at Chaplin Reserve. Fawkner win 2-0 came gift wrapped courtesy of two goalkeeping blunders by debutant Chris Xerri. The first goal arrived after 15 minutes when a long cross from the right to the far post saw the Sunshine keeper hesitate leaving Jason Dolevski plenty of time to pop the ball over the young keeper's head. Sunshine best chances of the half fell to Nicholas Scerri whose shot forced Pasi Schwaleger into a double fisted save and a free kick by Andrew Bourakis the just scrapped the outside of the upright. Fawkner nearly doubled their advantage 5 minutes into the second half when Jason Dolevki smashed his shot into the cross-bar. The rest of the half belonged to Sunshine without ever looking likely to score. Andrew Bourakis long range free kick that forced Schwalger was the best of many feeble efforts. The Georgies had plenty of possession but lack of team work caused Fawkner very few problems. The Blues made sure of all 3 points when a low Marcus Stergiopoulos free kick slipped through Chris Xerri's hands allowing Francescon Deantoniis to scramble the ball into the net. Fawkner deserved the win because on the day they worked more as a team in a game of very few chances.

SL1 RESULTS

Port Melbourne 2
(N Kalambokis N Ronne)
Altona Magic 1 (K Delev)

Southern Stars 1
Whittlesea Zebras 0

Langwarrin 1
FC Bulleen Lions 0

North Geelong Warriors 1 (M Demo)
Pascoe Vale 0

Preston Lions 3
Western Suburbs 3

Sunshine George Cross 0
Fawkner Blues 2

U21:
Port Melbourne 1 Altona Magic 1, Southern Stars 3 Whittlesea Zebras 1, Langwarrin 0 FC Bulleen Lions 2, North Geelong Warriors 0 Pascoe Vale 3, Preston Lions 3 Western Suburbs 0, Sunshine George Cross 5 Fawkner Blues 3

SL1 LADDER

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Port Melbourne	5	5	0	0	11	3	15
Southern Stars	5	4	0	1	9	6	12
Whittlesea Z	5	3	1	1	7	4	10
Fawkner Blues	5	3	0	2	8	3	9
Western Sub	5	2	2	1	9	8	8
Altona Magic	5	2	1	2	6	6	7
Langwarrin	5	2	1	2	6	8	7
North Geelong	5	2	0	3	5	10	6
Preston Lions	5	1	1	3	9	14	4
Pascoe Vale	5	1	0	4	7	6	3
Bulleen Lions	5	1	0	4	3	7	3
Sun George X	5	1	0	4	5	10	3

SL1 Next Round

Nth Geelong Warriors v Southern Stars
Elcho Park
Fri 13 May KO 8:30PM

Altona Magic v Sunshine George Cross
Paisley Park Soccer Complex
Sat 14 May KO 3:00PM

Fawkner Blues v Preston Lions
CB Smith Reserve
Sat 14 May KO 3:00PM

Western Suburbs v Pascoe Vale
Ralph Reserve
Sun 15 May KO 3:00PM

FC Bulleen Lions v Port Melbourne
Veneto Social Club
Mon 16 May 11 8:30PM

Whittlesea Zebras v Langwarrin
Epping Soccer Stadium
Sun 12 Jun KO 3:00PM

SL1 U21 LADDER

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Southern Stars	5	4	1	0	18	10	13
Bulleen Lions	5	4	0	1	19	5	12
Pascoe Vale	5	3	0	2	15	12	9
Langwarrin	5	3	0	2	9	7	9
Western Sub	5	3	0	2	11	15	9
North Geelong	5	2	1	2	12	8	7
Whittlesea Z	5	2	1	2	12	11	7
Fawkner Blues	5	2	1	2	9	12	7
Sun George X	5	1	2	2	13	17	5
Preston Lions	5	1	0	4	11	18	3
Port Melbourne	5	0	2	3	4	10	2
Altona Magic	5	0	2	3	6	14	2

V-LEAGUE

NIKE PREMIERSHIP
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New NIKE V-League gets a big tick!

By Matthew Montgomery

So here it is! A new V-League season is upon us yet again, which means new teams, new players, new opportunities for all teams and a new league sponsor in NIKE!

One of the fittest players in the league, Metro FC's Ivan Zilic was instrumental in his sides impressive win over Brunswick.

Ashburton defender Moe Alghorabi celebrates one of his three goals with team mate James Danos.

Prahran's Marcus Barbosa shone in his first game for his new side, breaking open the game with 2 impressive goals.

Pascoe Vale striker Vadim Mazurskiy was rewarded for for his tireless work rate with a hat-trick in his sides win over Albert Park.

FC Melbourne v Fitzroy FC (5-8)

And the first clash on the card to kick off this new NIKE V-League season was last seasons State League Champions FC Melbourne and Fitzroy FC. It was a very tight first half with the fresh faced Melbourne boys only being down 2-1 at the break, but it was a stunning second half effort from Hamid Hassanikhoo that was the difference, as the captain chipped in with four goals for the match. He was well backed up by strike partner Cam Holmes with a classy brace. FC Melbourne stayed with the roys for most of the match with a double coming from striker David Fletcher. Dominik Rafati also had a good game in defence for Melbourne. But it was not enough to escape defeat.

CF Brunswick v Metropolitan (5-9)

On paper, the clash between Brunswick and Metropolitan was to be the clash of the night, and it didn't disappoint. It was always going to be an uphill battle for last season's league and cup runners-up in Metropolitan as they only had five available players. Alija Redzepovic's squad was down to bare bones as Husmir Ikanovic, Irzad Spijodic, Dino Redzepovic and stand out keeper Damir Salcin were all missing. But Metro were up for the challenge as the had an answer for everything Brunswick threw at them, as regular strike duo Ruzani Roslan and Munya Nyadzayo scored two each and new recruit Damir Marusic chipped in with one. With the scores locked up 3-3 at the break, the experience of Alija Redzepovic and Ivan Zilic proved the deciding factor in the second half as they earned four and three goals respectively. Defenders Tomo Grgic and Jusuf Avdic also added one each to Metro's goal tally which allowed them to claim all three points at full time.

Pascoe Vale v Albert Park FC (11-4)

The third clash of the night saw V-League newcomers Albert Park FC take on the seemingly unstoppable outfit Pascoe Vale FC. The side that won the double last season and was only defeated on one occasion in all competitions. Even after all of last seasons success, Pascoe Vale have a point to prove this season as they will be without manager Ari Simos and have replaced both of their more phyisical players in Ernie Simsek and Marcus Barbosa with the more technical Marucio Novak and Brenno Polatti. Will there be enough physical presence in this "unstoppable" side to be as dominant as they were last season? It didn't seem to bother the champs as they blew the Oranges away in the first half to lead 7-1 at half time. They were clinical in their execution and didn't miss a beat. The second half was a different story as Albert Park fought back and lost the half 4-3, which left them with an 11-4 final score. So there are positive signs showing. Almost all of the outfield players for Pascoe Vale got on the score sheet. It read: V. Mazurskiy 3, J. Da Silva 2, R. Ferguson 2, A. Azzam 2, M. Novak 1 and A. Caro 1. Albert Park had new recruit Josh Berrios leading the way with 2 and brothers Theo and Jason Ioanidis with one each.

FC Prahran v FC Balwyn (6-4)

The match between Prahran and Balwyn was a display of both quality and grit as both sides came out having a lot to prove this season. FC Prahran, have been billed as the team to challenge Pascoe Vale for the title, making three huge signings in M. Barbosa, E. Simsek from Pasoce Vale and Adam Husseini from Hume. Then there's the newly promoted Balwyn outfit wanting to ~~let the V-League world know that~~ they aren't there just to make up the numbers. And this message was clearly sent as they pushed Prahran right to the end only going down by a two-goal deficit. But the stand out performances came from striker Jason Barrientos who bagged two and keeper Mario Roza who kept his side in the match and also grabbed a goal. It was a 3-2 result in Prahran's favour at the break, but the brilliance of Maxi Avram (1 goal) and Marcus Barbosa (2 goals) combined with the steel in defence from Adam Husseini and Clint Mogoai was really something to behold. Definitely a team to watch in the future!

FC Essendon v Hume FC (9-5)

Two of the more physical sides of the V-League took to the pitch for the 9:30 encounter, which saw Essendon, 6th on last seasons table, take on Hume, who finished 5th. It was a match that both sides believed they could win and start off this season on a positive note. Hume seemed to be the weaker of the two squads as key players in Resit Culculoglu, Mohamed Nabir and Nejdet Sahin were all missing, as was influential Hume manager Amin Keddad. Was this to be a deciding factor at the end of the game? The first half saw Essendon lead 4-3 at the break, as Hume's utility Fikri Bozdogan kept them in the tie bagging two goals and playmaker Diego Assaeda scored a peach of a free-kick past a two man wall. Essendon's manager Zoran Matic was very busy during the off-season trying to organise a more competitive squad for the new season, and it seemed that all of his hard work paid off as new recruits fired with Fikret Korkaric booting four goals and Marcel Terzio having a solid performance in his V-League debut scoring one. Along with regular contributors Alexander Stevanovic (2 goals) and Dushan Bosniak (1 goal) it was enough to get over a raw Hume outfit.

Ashburton FC v Nth Melb FC (7-7)

The last game of Round 1 for the new NIKE V-League season saw top four rivals Ashburton FC take on North Melbourne FC in what was a match where both sides had chances to take all three points. It was not the same squad for Ashburton that lined up in the recent FOz cup semi-finals, as key players in James Blackburn, Rodrigo, Herbert, Duke Duva and Marucio Novak were all missing due to trades or being unavailable. This didn't seem to bother newly appointed Ashburton manager Paul Vidic who was able to get the most out of his limited squad and was very encouraging from the side-lines. New recruits Moe Alghorabi and Mark Burton scored three goals each. It was a different story for North Manager Milton Sakkos who actually had to pull on the boots to make up the numbers for his side. But it was a move that would pay off for the experienced manager as he scored three valuable goals to lead by example for his young squad. Both sides couldn't be separated at either siren as it was 4-4 at half time and 7-7 at full time.

V-League Standings

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
1 Pascoe Vale FC	1	1	0	0	11	4	7	3
2 FC Essendon	1	1	0	0	9	5	4	3
3 Metropolitan FC	1	1	0	0	9	5	4	3
4 Fitzroy FC	1	1	0	0	8	5	3	3
5 FC Prarhan	1	1	0	0	6	4	2	3
6 Nth Melbourne FC	1	0	1	0	7	7	0	1
7 Ashburton FC	1	0	1	0	7	7	0	1
8 FC Balwyn	1	0	0	1	4	6	-2	0
9 FC Melbourne	1	0	0	1	5	8	-3	0
10 CF Brunswick	1	0	0	1	5	9	-4	0
11 Hume FC	1	0	0	1	5	9	-4	0
12 Albert Park FC	1	0	0	1	4	11	-7	0

NIKE V-LEAGUE RESULTS
Wed May 4th

•6:30	FC Melbourne v Fitzroy FC	5 - 8
•7:15	CF Brunswick v Metropolitan FC	5 - 9
•8:00	Albert Park FC v Pascoe Vale FC	4 - 11
•8:45	FC Prahran v FC Balwyn	6 - 4
•9:30	FC Essendon v Hume FC	9 - 5
•10:15	Ashburton FC v Nth Melbourne	7 - 7

NIKE V-LEAGUE NEXT ROUND
Wed May 11th

•6:30	CF Brunswick v Albert Park FC
•7:15	FC Balwyn v Fitzroy FC
•8:00	FC Essendon v Nth Melbourne FC
•8:45	Ashburton FC v Pascoe Vale FC
•9:30	FC Prahran v Hume FC
•10:15	FC Melbourne v Metropolitan FC

NIKE V-LEAGUE
Top Goal Scorers

1. A. Redzepovic	Metro FC	4 Goals
2. F. Korkaric	FCE	4 Goals
3. H. Hassanikhoo	FFC	4 Goals
4. V. Mazurskiy	PVFC	3 Goals

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O'Hare Double Sinks Saints

RICHMOND EAGLES 2

ST ALBANS SAINTS 0

Match Details

Richmond Eagles:
S.Gal, E.Karahan, R.Antoniadis, M.Bissinger, D.Tsiaras, T.Purcell (A.Viola 81'), M.Catalano, M.Eterovic (S.Wilson 65'), A.Kovacic, M.Ferrante, E.Batsis (C.O'Hare 60').

Goals: Catalano 6' O'Hare 87'
Yellow Cards: None
Red Cards: None

St Albans Saints:
S.Pavlovic, A.Paleka (M.Hana 57'), B.Chesson, M.Grgic, T.Uskok, L.Cannell, S.Piorkowski, M.Paleka, J.Loncaric, D.Visevic, G.Jozeljic.

Goals: None
Yellow Cards: None
Red Cards: None

Man of the Match:
Stjpan Gal (Richmond)

Venue: Kevin Bartlett Reserve
Crowd: 400

By Mark Boric

Richmond hosted St Albans on Saturday as the first haf of the 2011 AVPL season drew to a close.

St Albans were missing former Eagles defender Tom Milardovic and Maks Cuze through suspension from their 0-5 defeat by Heidelberg United. They were replaced by Alan Paleka and another former Richmond player, Stefan Piorkowski. Josip Loncaric also came into the starting eleven, in place of Martin Hana. Richmond made just the once change to the side which drew 1-1 with Melbourne Knights, Chris O'Hare who came off injured in that game dropping to the bench to make way for youngster Evan Batsis.

In the fifth minute Mitch Bissinger got the ball to Batsis who found Timmy Purcell out wide with the return ball to Batsis at the near post cut out by a defender. Within a minute the action was at the other goalmouth, as Goran Jozeljic was slipped in on the right, Stejpan Gal saving with his feet when left exposed one-on-one.

Just a minute later Michael Ferrante found Mate Eterovic out wide on the left. The young Richmond winger made a great run to carry the ball to the byline and then into the box before picking out a pass to Michael Catalano who put Richmond ahead with a simple side-foot finish.

A run down the left by Brian Chesson was followed with a cross to the far post in the thirteenth minute, which Gal did well to hold under the challenge of Mark Paleka. Daniel Visevic burst into the box shortly after and went down under a challenge, referee Bruno D'Aniello confidently dismissing an appeal for a penalty. A long range shot from Piorkowski fell to Jozeljic, who failed to fully control the ball which rolled staight to Gal.

There were a couple of chances for the Saints in the nineteenth minute, as Mark Paleka had a shot blocked by Gal when arriving at the far post on the right, the ball bouncing around the box before being squared out to Visevic wide on the left who drove a shot over the crossbar from a tight angle.

A cross from Batsis in the right corner saw Purcell head just wide at the near post. Batsis then played in Eterovic on his left who had his shot well saved by Steven Pavlovic. Batsis missed a good opportunity with a header before Liam Cannell produced a great save from Gal with a fierce shot being tipped around the post in the forty-second minute. From the resulting corner the Saints had three efforts on goal, Eterovic heading the final one off his own line as the Eagles survived a scare.

Pavlovic saved a shot from Ferrante, who was involved in the action again in the final minute of the half. Emulating the earlier run of Eterovic, Catalano dribbled his way through traffic in the left corner before finding Ferrante free at the far post, Pavlovic blocking the shot with a good save.

Eterovic was back in the action in the fifty-first munte, skipping through two tackles to break into the box on the left before shooting over the crossbar from nine yards. A pass from Visevic released Cannell on the following shot was blocked for a corner. A foul on Purcell in the fifty-sixth minute saw a quick thinking Ferrante roll the ball to him as soon as he got up and implore him to shoot with Pavlovic standing alongside his post. The Saints keeper managed to tip the driven ball over the crossbar.

Not to be outdone, Gal saved a shot from Visevic from the edge of area. Both goalkeepers were in tremendous form, and despite the numerous chances it was appearing as if Catalano's strike may be the solitary goal of the game.

A throw-in from Bissinger saw Purcell find substitute O'Hare, who held the ball up before finding Erhan Karahan on the charge down the left. Karahan took the ball and cut in, shooting across the face of goal with his right foot. A cross from Purcell on the right was met by Catalano on the half-volley, with Pavlovic again saving his side with a great save down low to his right. A neat turn from Ferrante was followed with a shot from twenty-five yards which flew just over the crossbar.

Gal had to produce another great save in the seventy-eighth minute to deny Hana. St Albans had built up down the right, but the ball was switched to the left after a shot had been blocked but Gal was again able to thwart his former club to keep Richmond ahead.

A switch of play from right to left in the eighty-seventh minute saw Catalano and Ferrante get the ball to O'Hare outside the penalty area on the left. O'Hare took on a defender to get into the box before cutting inside to send the ball past Pavlovic for his second goal of the season and seal a 2-0 win for the Eagles.

Richmond will commence the second half of the season with a game away at Heidelberg United. Things will not get any easier for the struggling Saints, who will have to make the difficult trip away to Broadmeadows Valley Park on Sunday to meet Hume City.

St Albans captain Josip Loncaric (right) clashes with Richmond's Ross Antoniadis. Photo: JOHN PUNSON

Eagle Ross Antoniadis beats Goran Jozeljic in the air. Photo: JOHN PUNSHON

Daniel Visevic takes evasive action after Mitch Bissinger's interception. Photo: JOHN PUNSHON

Battle Of The Greens Ends Scoreless

GREEN GULLY CAVALIERS 0

BENTLEIGH GREENS 0

Match Details

Green Gully: 1. Nikola ROGANOVIC, 2. Daniel JONES, 4. Cameron DRAKE, 7. Jeffrey FLEMING, 8. Jason WAYNE, 10. Graham HOCKLESS, 12. Mathew SANDERS, 15. Hamid BASMA, 16. Mile MEDJEDOVIC, 17. Andy VARGAS, 19. Johnathon MUNOZ.
Un-Used Subs: 23. Mason INTERLANDI, 6. Michael ANDERSON, 11. Pasquale VIZZARI, 14. Ryan OLLERTON, 20. Joshua PUGH.
Yellow cards: Mile Medjedovic 32', Graham Hockless 43', Nikola Roganovic 44', Andy Vargas 56', Johnathon Munoz 62'

Bentleigh Greens: 1. Peter GAVALAS, 3. Tom MATHEWS, 7. James MCGARRY, 8. Wayne WALLACE, 9. Sean MCLLROY, 10. Hayden DOYLE (24. Declan KEOGH), 12. Adam FADLJEVIC (4. Craig SMART), 14. Aron WILFORD, 16. Rayn DAVIDSON, 17. Jack WEBSTER, 22. Stuart NICHOLSON.
Un-Used Subs: 21. Luke GAVALAS, 25. Johnathan BOUNAS.
Yellow Cards: James McGarry 45', Wayne Wallaca 57'

Stadium: Green Gully Reserve
Crowd: 200

By David Manuca

Green Gully and Bentleigh Greens played out a 0-0 draw in a fiery but entertaining encounter at Green Gully Reserve on Saturday afternoon.

The Cavaliers went into the match having scored eleven goals in their past two games but lacked any real cutting edge in the final-third failing to find the net for only the third time this season.

Gully played VTC midweek which proved to be a contributing factor in their inability to find the back of the net as the players seemed to be fatigued both physically and mentally.

Bentleigh came into the game without a win since exactly a month ago, and seemed to be content with a point against an in-form Green Gully.

They had Peter Gavalas to thank for keeping the Cavaliers scoreless as he made a number of incredible saves throughout the match.

The first of his many saves came just six minutes in when Jason Hayne crossed the ball in from the right, which Gavalas initially fumbled, but recovered well to save a close range shot from Mathew Sanders.

Bentleigh went down the other end instantly with James McGarry breaking through down the left and the No.7 whipped in a cross to the back post which scraped off the top of Sean McLlroy's head and out for a goal kick.

The next chance of the match fell to Jason Hayne when he received a good ball by Hamid Basma out right and the New Zealander cut back inside before unleashing a strike but once again Gavalas produced a brilliant save.

The resulting corner saw the ball fall right to Mathew Sanders but he could only direct his header straight at Gavalas.

Andy Vargas should have put Gully ahead four minutes after when he was played in by Hamid Basma but his audacious chip fell the wrong side of the back post.

In the 36th minute Green Gully had huge appeals for a penalty turned down by referee Hakan Anaz.

Jack Webster appeared to have brought down Andy Vargas in the box but the referee and his linesman saw nothing in it and waved play on.

Two minutes before the break Bentleigh had a fantastic opportunity to take the lead.

A free-kick was whipped into the area which Roganovic collected but he dropped the ball after what looked to be a foul on him by McLlroy.

The ball fell to Aron Wilford but he couldn't capitalize on the situation as he sent his shot over the bar.

The start of the second half saw Green Gully come out firing creating a number of chances at goal. Johnathon Munoz came close to scoring and Mathew Sanders had his effort saved by Gavalas.

Shortly after Green Gully had another penalty appeal waved away when Basma's shot appeared to strike the arm of a Bentleigh defender inside the box. But once again the referee waved play on.

On the hour mark Graham Hockless was played in with a pass from Munoz with the outside of his foot but Hockless' chip was deflected over the bar and out for a corner.

Nothing came of that corner but a corner ten minutes later fell right to Basma but he could only direct his header over the bar.

In the 78th minute Gully created yet another opportunity when Munoz headed the ball to the middle of the area where Hayne was standing but his shot was deflected out for a corner.

Once again Green Gully threatened from the corner-kick with Cameron Drake jumping highest but he thumped his header onto the crossbar.

Cameron Drake hit in a cross with three minutes remaining which instead headed towards goal and crashed against the crossbar for the second time.

Gully pushed hard for a late winner but it wasn't to be as the Bentleigh defence held strong for a valuable away point.

No sweat! Craig Smart (Greens) and
Photo: DANIEL FLIS

Gully's Hamid Basma gets his cross over as Bentleigh's Jack Webster arrives a fraction too late. Photo: DANIEL FLIS

Peter Gavalas pulls off a save for Bentleigh Greens as Gully pile on the pressure.
Photo: DANIEL FLIS

Thunder Treats Fans to Top of the Table Display

DANDENONG THUINDER 3

OAKLEIGH CANNONS 1

Match Details

Line ups

Dandenong Thunder: Webster, S.,Hingert, J., Gray, S., Rexhepi, S., Harrison, B, Tomic, A., Theodore, M.,Taylor, C., Sherbon, L, Korcari, V (Cooke, S.86'), Kearney, L.

Scorers: Kearney 38', Korcari 50', Taylor 77'

Oakleigh Cannons: Zois, P., Bran, A., Cicak, A.,Cummings, J., Diaco, R., Ontong, S. (Downey, J. 46'), Lagana, F. (Obradovic, B. 84'), , Walker, L., Tavsancioglu, R., Damianos, B.,Hatzikostas, S. (Becket, M. 74')

Scorer: Diaco 57'

By George Stogiannou

Dandenong Thunder has proved itself the best performing team at the halfway mark of the 2011 premier League season defeating its closest rival Oakleigh Cannons 3-1 at George Andrews reserve on Saturday night.

After a mid-week appeal by the club against a four week home ban of spectators, fans were allowed to watch the highly anticipated match up between the season's two best performed sides. The FFV tribunal has adjourned the appeal hearing and in the meantime allowed a stay of the four match ban until the hearing is completed in the coming week.

What the fans saw was an entertaining match in which the visitors took the game to the home team in the opening 25 minutes. Lone Cannon frontman Ricky Diaco had three half chances in the opening 25 minutes. Both teams played with a strong defensive structure without the ball, pressing their opponents and forcing long balls out of defence. The Cannons attempted to attack down the flanks through their wide attacking midfielders. The opening goal however came to Thunder after it began to get into the match with a few attacks of their own. In the 38th minute, the impressive Matthew Theodore intercepted a Cannons pass and broke quickly down the right flank behind the Cannons fullback, sending a diagonal pass of mathematical precision to pick out striker Liam Kearney arriving on the blind side of the last defender. Kearney kept his composure bringing the ball under control before slotting home past Cannon keeper Peter Zois.

The same two Thunder players combined to again unlock the Cannons defence soon after the break, when Kearney's short pass put a forward moving Theodore in behind the visitors' static defence. Theodore's shot beat keeper Zois only to rebound off both uprights before Dandenong skipper Veton Korcari charged in to tap home the easiest of goals.

The Cannons found an unexpected lifeline just seven minutes later when striker Diaco collected a loose ball well outside the box and fired a long range shot on the turn past Thunder keeper Stuart Webster into the net, much to the anger of the Dandy bench which felt the referee should have blown the whistle for an infringement leading to the goal.

The visitors pushed forward with renewed incentive introducing Wellington Phoenix signing James Downey in an attacking wide midfield role. But they were almost caught out on the counter when Theodore struck his shot wide from a Korcari cut back. Worse was to come for Oakleigh however in the 77th minute when Dandenong midfielder Luke Sherbon, took full advantage of a missed tackle by the Cannons' defence allowing him to gain possession and send in a pin point cross to midfielder Chris Taylor arriving from deep, into the penalty box to volley home first time.

In the last 10 minutes, it was the home team which finished the stronger, looking the more likely to add to the scoreline.

After the match Cannons coach Arthur Papas remarked, " Let's not be mistaken, they (Thunder) have had points deducted but they are the best team in the league at the moment. They're the benchmark. When you make a mistake against the quality teams and turn the ball over in the middle of the park, within three passes it's in the back of the net. Their goals in the second half came from a counter and that's the sign of a very good team…..I think the difference today, was the two guys who worked around Veton (Korcari) in the front third (Theodore and Kearney), because they do things that are not structured. They are very mobile, they get themselves into positions and read the game really well. I think they're the difference in a game like today."

Dandenong coach Stuart Munro felt his team were too static in the opening 25 minutes and Oakleigh played very well in that period. " I think we started to move, midfielders and strikers and that brought us back into the game. Because that's how we play. We play with a lot of movement. Once we started doing that I thought we finished the first half very strong and the pleasing thing, we started the second half the same way. I was very pleased especially with the second half performance. This team creates an awful lot of chances."

" I think (the turmoil off the park) of the past week has affected the players a little bit. Lads that have come in from overseas, they've never experienced anything like this before. They find it quite astounding. But really we're trying to keep it positive and trying to keep them informed as much as we can. It's out of our hands. It's not to do with the team. It's got to do with the club and the FFV to try and sort out. As you can see today, the club has done everything they possibly can to make sure nothing goes wrong. The club is trying its hardest to make sure these kind of things don't happen but obviously you can't control every single person that comes into the ground."

Thunder captain Veton Korcari puts the home side 2-0 up and help erase some of the memories of the past week. PHOTO: GARY SCISSON

Frankie Lagan tries to lose his opponent Jack Hingert. PHOTO: GARY SCISSON

Veton Korcari levaes Rama Tavsancioglu in his wake. PHOTO: GARY SCISSON

Thrills and spills from Saturday night night as Oakleigh's James Downey gets airborne.PHOTO: GARY SCISSON

Points Shared at The Valley

HUME CITY	1
MELBOURNE KNIGHTS	1

Match Details

MATCH STATS:
SHOTS: HC 5 MK 10
TARGET: HC 1 MK 5
CORNERS: HC 8 MK 5

Hume City Line Up:
Acevski, Pace (Bosevski 32'), Petrevski (Ofli 40'), Delic (Pistininzi 75'), Riccobene, Vlahos, Erdogan, Pir, Cardozo, Dilizia, Weir.

Yellow Cards: Cardozo, Delic
Goals: Zoran Petrevski 37'

Melbourne Knights Line Up:
John, Filipovic (Stefanou 70'), A. Colosimo, Junior De Camargo, Zilic, Kozic, Magdic, S. Romein, Sweeney, Dubios (Welmont 78'), Dragicevic (Yusef 75').

Yellow Cards: Dubios, Romein, Junior De Camargo, Yusef.

Goals: Magdic 56'.

MoM: Josip Magdic (MK)

Crowd: Approx
400 @ Broadmeadows Valley Park

By David Manuca

Hume City played host to the Melbourne Knights in windy and wet conditions at Broadmeadows Valley Park on Sunday afternoon, with the match finishing in an entertaining one all draw, marred by some poor refereeing decisions.

The visitors were without captain Ben Surey for this match with Josip Kozic taking the armband, while Hume City welcomed back Erdogan in their otherwise unchanged line up.

It was the home side that created the first chance of the game in the opening minutes when Andy Vlahos delivered one of his trademark crosses that narrowly missed Dusko Delic in a good position.

However it was the Knights who dominated possession and looked more threatening to open the scoring, and in the 13th minute they had a good shout for a penalty after it appeared Pir handled the ball in the box, only for the referee to wave the appeal away.

Minutes later Craig Sweeney tested Acevski from 20 yards and found the goalkeeper equal to the task, and after a flurry of corners for the visitors Adam Zilic headed wide after finding himself in a good position at the back post.

Dubios showed some crafty skills by skipping past two markers and creating space inside the box, but his shot was mishit and flew harmlessly wide, whilst the Hume City player/coach Vlahos tried to lift his side with a powerful strike that fizzed past the upright.

The Knights had the best chance to open the scoring in the 32nd minute after some good work form Dragicevic on the right flank set up Magdic inside the box in space, Magdic's shot beat the keeper but some desperate defending from Riccobene on the line saved his side from going a goal down.

This sparked the home side into action, and after the Knights failed to clear a corner, a cross found Zoran Petrevski unmarked in the 18yard box who finished superbly on the half volley.

However this would be Petrevski's last impact on the match after he was forced off with a hamstring injury, joining Steven Pace on the bench who had been subbed just minutes earlier for the same injury.

It took the Knights just over ten minutes into the second half to equalize after Craig Sweeney found himself on side and one on one the keeper, but while his shot was well saved by Acevski, Josip Magdic was on hand to slam home the equalizer and make it two from two for the midfielder.

Steven Weir had a great chance to put his side back in front after a mistimed header from Junior De Camargo saw the ball fall to Weir, but the UK import's shot was wide of the target.

Acevski again had his defenders to thank when Craig Sweeney's drive was blocked on the line and when substitute Yusuf Yusuf struck the upright with a stunning effort, it looked as if the Knights were the most likely to snatch all three points.

Some poor refereeing decisions marred and ruined what was turning out to be an exciting finale to the match, twice booking Knights players for some very soft challenges, not awarding Hume City a clear as day corner, and awarding two very controversial free-kicks on the edge of the Knights penalty area in the last five minutes of the clash.

The first of these free-kicks saw Richie Cardozo strike the upright, whilst the second free kick was awarded after Ofli seemed to go to ground very easily and clearly inside the box, only for the referee to award a free kick on the edge of the area which Steven Weir hit into the wall. But the referee wasn't stopping there, and made another controversial decision to book Yusef for a dive on the edge of the penalty area, for what looked like an obvious foul.

Lupce Acevski had a 'Gomes' like moment in stoppage time, when a routine save from a Kozic shot slipped though his hands and rolled towards goal, before the keeper recovered to save his blushes.

After the final whistle both sets of supporters offered some 'friendly' advice to the referee, and whilst the points were shared both sides will feel aggravated not to have taken more from the match.

Next week Hume city play host to cellar dwellers St Albans Saints, whilst the Knights travel to face top of the table Dandenong Thunder next Saturday night.

The Melbourne Knights are back on level terms after Man of the Match Josip Magdic (8) scores and continues his rich vein of form. Photo: STEVE STAREK

Hume City's Zoran Petrevski pulls the trigger prior to pulling his hamstring in an eventful afternoon for the striker Photo: STEVE STAREK

Aaron Romein (Knights) and Andy Vlahos (Hume) tangle as they display their commitment to winning the ball. Photo: STEVE STAREK

Northcote's Derby Demolition

NORTHCOTE CITY	5
SOUTH MELBOURNE	0

Match Details

Lineups:

Northcote City: 22 Chris Petropoulos, 12 Hayden D'Agostino, 3 Kristian Konstantinidis, 16 Paul Savio, 8 Nicholas Curtis (11 Harry Kinigopoulos 81'), 10 Glen Trifiro, 23 Jason Trifiro, 13 Samuel Torrens, 19 Dean Piemonte (14 Eddie Soares 74'), 18 James Kalafatidis (7 Jonathan Voulgaris 67'), 9 Trent Rixon

Scorers: Trent Rixon 5' 65' 73', Jason Trifiro 60', Glen Trifiro 87'
Yellow cards: None
Red cards: None

South Melbourne: 1 Abdelhadi Deroune, 33 Bobby Russel (19 Leigh Minopoulos 65'), 30 Jake Vandermey, 25 Kyle Joryeff, 18 Marino Gasparis, 16 Joshua Colosimo (12 Bradley Treloar 63'), 15 Fernando De Moraes, 9 Gianni De Nittis (14 Kamal Ibrahim 60'), 6 Steven Topalovic, 5 Daniel Vasilevski, 3 Rhodri Payne

Scorers: None
Yellow cards: None
Red cards: None

Man of the Match: Trent Rixon

Venue: John Cain Memorial Park
Crowd: 1,100

By Tony Persoglia

When issuing report cards to clubs at the half-way point of the season, it's easy to be influenced by recent results when assigning a mark. However, in the case of Northcote City, a convincing five-goal win against a key arch rival only serves to reinforce the exceptional form of a club hitting its straps at the turn.

Undefeated in its past six matches, it wasn't so much the fact that they defeated South Melbourne at John Cain Memorial Park on Sunday, but the manner in which they clinically dispatched one of the pre-season title favourites. The performance, particularly in the second half, appeared effortless, but in truth, is the culmination of planning and effort in the off-season that is reaping rewards.

The key factors in the victory are examples of why Northcote City must be considered genuine championship contenders in their own right. In Trent Rixon, they have an inspirational leader who delivers every time he sets foot on the pitch. Unwanted by A-League clubs, maligned by opposition fans but loved by the Blue-and-White faithful – Rixon delivered three goals typical of his ability as the league's most valuable striker.

The first goal, delivered on a plate by his strike partner James Kalafatidis, may have appeared to be a simple finish, but for his first genuine chance on goal, his strike was exquisitely struck, giving the South Melbourne custodian little opportunity to conjure a save. His second, a poachers finish amidst the goal-mouth chaos, and third, a looping header from another corner, sealed a brilliant hat-trick, and places him in sight of back-to-back Golden Boots, a feat only Paul Lewis, Sash Becvinovski and Michael Curcija can lay claim to.

The first and last goals of the second half were scored by the brothers Trifiro, who have been the unquestioned success story of the season. Since arriving from Sydney in the New Year, the young midfielders have added class and poise to the City engine-room, controlling games with their intricate passing and unparalleled work ethic.

The have delivered seven goals from midfield, and countless assists, delivering a quality of service never seen at John Cain Memorial Park. Peter Tsolakis will no doubt be quietly smiling to himself, knowing that he has recruited not one, but two, potential match winners, and boasts a midfield armoury the envy of his nearest challengers.

Where Northcote were impressive and determined, South Melbourne were equally undermanned and disinterested. Eddie Krncevic can look at his squad and conclude that virtually half of his team were missing on Sunday afternoon. However, he would have been disappointed with the collective performance after Jason Trifiro bagged City's second goal, their capitulation indicative of a team out of form.

Be that as it may, their great start to the season sees South Melbourne sitting pretty in fourth spot, with only goal difference separating them from the penalised Dandenong Thunder and Northcote City, and a mere two points adrift from league leaders Oakleigh Cannons.

South travel west to face Green Gully on Saturday afternoon, where they will be hoping to bounce back in much the same fashion they did at home to Dandenong Thunder after an equally demoralising loss against Hume City.

Northcote City welcome Oakleigh Cannons to John Cain Memorial Park next Saturday, in a match that will provide another test for Tsolakis and his Blue-and-White brigade, and an encounter which promises to be the match of the round as top spot is up for grabs.

Northcote City enjoy getting a big result over sister club South Melbourne. Trent Rixon grabbed a hat trick and can expect a heroes certificate in the mail.Photo: PETER PSARROS

Trent Rixon makes his way back to the restart after nothcing an early goal.
Photo: PETER PSARROS

All smiles for Glen Trifiro as he gets on the scoresheet as well.
Photo: PETER PSARROS

Bergers On Cloud Nine

HEIDELBERG UNITED 9

SPRINGVALE W EAGLES 0

Match Details

Heidelberg United starting lineup; Griffin MC MASTER, John LAZARIDIS (George PAPADOPOULOS 58'), Craig ELVIN, Ben WEARING, Steve MARTIN, Richard GREER (Takanori NISHIMOTO 79'), Evan CHRISTODOULOU, Yarred HAILEMELEKOT (Les DOUMBALIS), Hamlet ARMENIAN, Saso ALEXOVSKI, Osagie EDERARO.

Unused Subs: Andrew NABBOUT, Jason KOUTSODONTIS.

Goals: Ederaro 11', 70', Christodoulou 13',78', Wearing 29', Heilemelekot 47', Alexovski 50', 85', Armenian 60'.

Springvale White Eagles starting lineup: Scott AGUSTIN, Gojko PONJEVIC (Rados TOMIC), Boris BAJIC, Tome RACUNICA, Gordan MRDIC, Milos LUJIC, Dushan NIKOLIC, Dominic D'ANGELO (Andres JEREZ), Zoran VUKAS (Paul MAGHIAR), Goran ZORIC, Lewis KARANICOLAS.

Unused Subs: 1. Christian MORALES, Vojislav MILOJEVIC.

By Steven Talevski

Heidelberg United has defeated Springvale by an astonishing nine goals at Olympic Village on Sunday night.

Heidelberg United sent out a message to the competition that they are well and truly part of the title race in what was this year's Alanic Victorian Premier leagues biggest win.

As the match began Heidelberg United looked to break the deadlock early as Saso Alexovski latched onto a ball in a counter attack and played it Richard Greer who was unable to get his foot onto it.

Moments later Hamlet Armenian was able to play a ball across goal and forced the White Eagles into a mix up in defence which resulted in Osagie Ederaro getting the first goal of the game in the 11th minute.

Shortly after Osagie Ederaro used some fancy footwork and found Evan Christodoulou who put the ball in the back of the net to hand Heidelberg United the two nil lead in the 13th minute.

Heidelberg continued their great start and almost found their third as Ben Wearing put his header over the cross bar from a corner.

Springvale finally got some luck on their side as Dushan Nikolic cleared the ball off the line from another Ben Wearing header.

Scott Agustin made his first great save of the match as he denied Steve Martin's header in the 30th minute.

It was third time lucky for Ben Wearing in the 29th minute as his volley found the back of the net from a Hamlet Armenian cross for Heidelberg's third goal.

Springvale got their best chances of the first half in the 42nd minute as Griffin Mc Master made a solid save from a one on one situation against Milos Lujic.

Goran Zoric then had his chance but failed to curl his ball into the top right hand corner of the goal.

As both teams came out for the second half there was no sign of Heidelberg slowing down.

Hamlet Armenian made a terrific run down the wing and was able to cross the ball to Yarred Hailemelekot who tapped in Heidelberg's fourth goal in the 47th minute.

Just three minutes later Evan Christodoulou's cross was met by a diving header from Saso Alexovski to make it a five nil lead.

Yarred Hailemelekot then came off with an ankle injury for Les Doumbalis in the 52nd minute.

Heidelberg United almost got their sixth as Saso Alexovski forced Scott Agustin into a solid save for the White Eagles.

However their sixth goal came just under a minute later as Hamlet Armenian scored from a header from yet another cross.

Moments later Osagie Ederaro provided a great long range pass to Hamlet Armenian who hit a terrific volley that saw an even better save from Scott Agustin.

Osagie Ederaro got his second goal of the game in the 70th minute as he smashed the ball past unfortunate White Eagle's keeper Scott Agustin.

Springvale looked for a consolation goal as Goran Zoric forced Griffin Mc Master into a superb save.

Seconds later Evan Christodoulou scored his double as he lobbed Scott Agustin to hand Heidelberg an eight nil lead in the 78th minute.

Just two minutes later Christodoulou should have got his hat trick as he smashed the ball over the cross bar.

Springvale almost got on the score sheet again as Goran Zoric's header hit the cross bar and bounced on the line and back into play.

Heidelberg substitute Takanori Nishimoto missed out on getting on the score sheet as he forced Scott Agustin into the save of the match from a stunning volley.

Saso Alexovski closed the scoring with an unbelievable ninth Heidelberg goal as he tapped the ball in the back of the net in the 85th minute.

Griffin Mc Master continued his form that has seen him trail with Melbourne Heart as he was forced into a great save by Milos Lujic in the dying minutes.

As the final whistle blew Heidelberg United walked off the field with cheers from their loyal fans as Springvale were left stunned after another big defeat.

Springvale White Eagles have let through 14 goals in their last two game and remain in the relegation zone as Heidelberg make it four wins in a row to continue pushing to crack into the top five.

In round 12 Heidelberg United host two matches as VTC visit on Wednesday night while Richmond travel to Olympic Village on Sunday.

Springvale look to stop their horror run on Sunday as they host Bentleigh Greens at White Eagles Stadium.

Heidelberg's Hamlet Armenian and Osagie Ederaro in the dressing after the match. The two strikers were the main architects in the 9-0 drubbing last night. Photo: JOHN FOTINOS

Alanic VPL Standings

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PT
Oakleigh Cannons	12	7	2	3	25	17	23	
Dandenong Thunder	12	8	3	1	27	9	21	
Northcote City	12	6	3	3	27	16	21	
South Melbourne	12	6	3	3	21	23	21	
Hume City	12	5	5	2	22	15	20	
Heidelberg Utd	11	6	3	2	26	11	18	
Bentleigh Greens	12	4	4	4	16	16	16	
Green Gully Cavaliers	12	4	2	6	22	13	14	
Richmond Eagles	12	4	2	6	14	21	14	
Melbourne Knights	12	2	5	5	16	17	11	
VTC Football	10	3	0	7	11	28	9	
Springvale White Eagles	12	1	5	6	15	37	8	
St Albans Saints	11	0	3	8	9	28	3	

Alanic VPL Round 12

Wed 11 May 8:30PM
Heidelberg Utd v N.T.C
Olympic Village

Sat 14 May 3:00PM
Green Gully Cavaliers v South Melbourne Green Gully Reserve

Sat 14 May 3:00PM
Northcote City v Oakleigh Cannons John Cain Memorial

Sat 14 May 7:00PM
Dandenong Thunder v Melbourne Knights George Andrews Reserve

Sun 15 May 3:00PM
Hume City v St Albans Saints Broadmeadows Valley Park

Sun 15 May 3:00PM
Heidelberg Utd v Richmond Eagles Olympic Park (Village)

Sun 15 May 3:00PM
Springvale White Eagles v Bentleigh Greens White Eagles Stadium

Under 21s

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pt
Green Gully Cavaliers	12	7	4	1	29	15	25	
Melbourne Knights	12	6	3	3	33	16	21	
South Melbourne	11	6	3	2	28	17	21	
Oakleigh Cannons	12	6	3	3	29	19	21	
Hume City	12	6	2	4	31	20	20	
Dandenong Thunder	12	5	3	4	26	21	18	
Northcote City	12	5	3	4	23	21	18	
Heidelberg Utd	09	5	1	3	18	16	16	
Springvale White Eagles	11	4	1	6	22	35	13	
Richmond	12	4	0	8	20	39	12	
Bentleigh Greens	12	2	3	7	19	34	9	
VTC Football	10	2	1	7	17	30	7	
St Albans Saints	11	1	3	7	19	31	3	

Richmond 2
St Albans Saints 1

Green Gully Cavaliers 1
Bentleigh Greens 1

Dandenong Thunder 1
Oakleigh Cannons 1

Hume City 5
Melbourne Knights 4

Northcote City 2
South Melbourne 2

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